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Colonial Reports

Mauritius

1950

LONDON: HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

1952

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COLONIAL OFFICE

REPORT ON MAURITIUS FOR THE YEAR 1950

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LONDON: HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

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PART I

Review of 1950

Three important features of the year 1950 deserve special mention at the beginning of this review: a record sugar production of 456,000 tons, during a year free from major cyclones; the introduction of an old age pensions scheme and, lastly, a birth rate which reached the unprecedented total of 16,660. In 1846, the population of the island was 158,000; at present it is estimated to be 475,000. If no satisfactory answer can be found to the problem of over-population it may prove difficult to preserve the standard of living of the Colony even at its present level.

The introduction of the colony's first social security measure, a non-contributory old age pension scheme; the change in the constitution of the Municipality of Port Louis to include 16 elected members instead of 12; the creation of Town Councils partly elected and partly nominated, in place of the former wholly nominated Township Boards; the progress made with Village Councils, were all testimonies to the increased interest shown in matters of Social Welfare and local Government administration.

1950 marked the centenary of the Municipality of Port Louis and the festivities organised in celebration of this event were attended by representatives of the neighbouring French islands of Madagascar and Reunion. The Governor, Sir Hilary Blood, K.C.M.G., paid an official visit to the High Commissioner for France in Madagascar, visited the dependencies of Rodrigues, Agalega and Cargados Carajos (St. Brandon) and represented the Colony at the opening of the new Chamber of the House of Commons at Westminster.

11-52 *Feb. 1951* The unsettled international situation has had its effect on the Colony. By the end of the year, Mauritius had not felt the full impact of the deterioration in the general supply situation, consequent upon the Korean War and the re-armament programme in the United Kingdom, but there were strong indications that things were taking a turn for the worse: orders placed took longer to execute, difficulties were being experienced in the purchase of certain commodities, and prices and freight charges were steadily increasing.

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THE POLITICAL SCENE

The second session of the Legislative Council was opened on the 28th of February and continued until the 12th of December. The Council followed the plan suggested by the Governor to divide the session into two parts: the first, mostly concerned with financial affairs, from March to June inclusive, and the second, mostly concerned with legislation from mid-August to mid-December.

The Council met 44 times. Although 35 fewer meetings were held than during the first session, the Council gave consent to no less than 84 out of 90 Bills brought before it, 14 more than in the previous year. The number of questions asked showed a considerable reduction—125 as opposed to nearly 400 in the previous session. This is an encouraging sign as it shows that the members of the Legislative Council are learning that if information is genuinely desired on matters connected with the Government of the country it can be obtained more satisfactorily, and more fully, by discussion with the Governor or the appropriate Government Officers, than by the notice of a question on the Order Paper.

The consideration of the budget occupied six and a half hours on the motion for reference to the Standing Committee on Finance, forty-two hours in the Standing Committee on Finance, fifty-six and a half hours in Committee of the whole Council and six and a half hours in debates on the Appropriation Bills, making a total of one hundred and eleven and a half hours, compared with one hundred and seventy two hours in the preceding year.

Although this was a great improvement, it was not possible to complete the examination of the estimates by the 30th of June. During the session, the Governor attended, as representative of the Council, the opening of the new House of Commons at Westminster. His Excellency took the opportunity of this visit to London to discuss a large number of matters, mostly of an administrative nature, with the Secretary of State for the Colonies and his advisers. The Governor proposed the appointment of an additional member to his Executive Council and the proposal was approved.

AGRICULTURE

Agriculture is the life and soul of the general economy of the Colony, and is practically its only source of wealth. Anything which adversely affects agriculture, and in particular the production of sugar, is bound to have serious repercussions in all walks of life.

The Sugar Industry

The year's crop broke all records and 456,000 metric tons of sugar were produced from 3,700,000 metric tons of cane. The sucrose content of cane was lower than that obtained in previous years, being 14.14% as against 14.31 and 14.33% for 1948 and 1949 respectively.

Except for a strike of minor importance, work in general progressed smoothly and efficiently.

Re-equipment was continued in sugar factories to cope with the yearly increase in the tonnage of canes to be manipulated and also to cut down manufacturing costs and improve efficiency.

The first bulk shipment of sugar from Port Louis was made in October, by the S.S. *Slammestead*. Bagged sugar from the docks was loaded into lighters in the usual way and taken alongside the ship where it was transferred to the underdeck by the ship's cranes; there the bags were opened and the sugar allowed to drop into the hold below. The experiment has been a complete success, and it is reported that this cargo has been the best of its nature received in London so far.

If, as a result of the success of this experiment, sugar were shipped in bulk, the saving would be considerable—for a crop of 450,000 tons, it would amount to Rs. 9,000,000 though it is unlikely that the whole crop could be shipped in this way.

Secondary Industries

The secondary industries of fibre (Mauritius hemp) and tea also made good crops during the year. Sufficient fibre was supplied to the Government Sack Factory for it to work at full capacity throughout the year and to make about 1,200,000 bags each of a capacity of 80 kgs. in addition to filter press cloth and yarn for rope making. The surplus of about 400 tons was exported at remunerative prices.

The amount of tea manufactured was also a record, amounting to some 750,000 lbs of black tea. About 45,000 lbs of tea were exported during the year.

The Tobacco Industry, on the other hand, did not do well. Permits were issued for harvesting about 427,000 kgs. of tobacco. Climatic conditions were such, however, that yields were considerably below expectation, so that a shortfall of some 100,000 kgs. is

expected. This was especially unfortunate in that consumption increased considerably; because of this and also because part of the tobacco was produced for export, stocks have been severely depleted.

Food

In view of the improved position all subsidies for growing food crops and the fixing of guaranteed minimum prices, were discontinued. This fact, coupled with the good returns from sugar, has in turn had an adverse effect on production and it is estimated that the area devoted to food crops has diminished by some 4,000 arpents or 25%. This reduction is reflected in all the main food crops, with the exception of potatoes, which showed an increase.

At the end of the year the Food Production Board was considering ways and means of encouraging production, and steps were being taken to ensure a supply of seeds and plants for certain crops, in case plantations had to be increased on account of supply difficulties arising from the international situation.

The supply of fresh fruit and vegetables has not been affected and, in spite of general increases in prices, the price of vegetables for the year 1949-50 remained virtually the same as in the previous year.

Animal Husbandry

A census of animals, conducted in April, showed that the number of dairy animals in the Colony had increased since the previous census, whereas the number of herd and draught animals had decreased.

An artificial insemination campaign, in the South of the island, did not meet with the success which had been hoped for, owing to the unwillingness of the Indo-Mauritian cow-keeper to use the new method. The cowkeepers are beginning to show more interest, however, and it is hoped that this interest will continue to grow. The conception rate by this method is high, about 75%.

Contagious abortion and sterility in the herd at the Government Dairy at Curepipe continue to show some unusual aspects, and it is evident that more concentrated research will be required before these problems can be solved.

Fisheries

The catch in local waters was of average size, but the results achieved by the fishing vessel *Silverlord* were disappointing. In the early days trouble was experienced with the refrigerating plant, and during the last quarter of the year, normally the best time, unusual weather caused the catches to be much smaller than might have been expected. If the catches had been sufficient to supply the needs of the local market, it was intended to stop all net fishing inside the lagoons; unfortunately this was not possible.

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

There are over 30 registered trade unions in Mauritius of which the aggregate membership represents approximately 25% of the total labour force. There exists a network of agreements in the principal industries, and there are four statutory minimum wage notices for minor trades.

Trade union officials frequently meet employers at the conference table.

The Labour Department provides a staff of labour officers whose duty it is to investigate complaints from workers; they have the power to represent a worker before his employer and in Court, in order to ensure that his rights are protected. They also report to the Labour Commissioner any serious grievances for which no legal remedy already exists, so that appropriate steps may be taken, such as an amendment to the law on workmen's compensation or the statutory fixing of a minimum wage in a particular trade.

In nearly 3,000 cases during 1950 compensation was obtained for workers who had met with accidents; in several hundreds of cases arrears of wages were obtained; all labour lines were inspected, and copies of reports with suitable recommendations, were sent to the employers. A new Minimum Wage Ordinance was passed and other legislation was drafted, concerning labour contracts, welfare in workshops, trade disputes and trade union registration. The Labour Department has four senior officers and thirteen Labour Officers; it also provides the staff for three main Employment Exchange Centres and half a dozen sub-centres. The "live" register contains about a thousand names at the end of each month, and several hundred workers are placed monthly.

HEALTH SERVICES

The general death rate and infantile mortality rate were the lowest on record and testify to the success of the anti-malarial measures carried out in recent years. Annual deaths from malaria, which, until a few years ago, totalled from 5 to 6 per 1,000 of the population, now amount to less than 1 per 1,000. Admissions to hospitals, attributable to this disease, were less than 300 as against over 3,000 in former years.

EDUCATION

The Government's education policy continued to aim at free primary education for all ; the expansion of fee-paying secondary schooling and the raising of educational standards throughout these schools; better service conditions for the teachers and better equipped schools and playing fields for the children; a healthy, active youth movement ; and preparatory work in connection with mass education.

Agreement was reached, towards the end of the year, between the Education Department, the managers of the aided secondary schools and the union of secondary school teachers on new salary scales for graduate and non-graduate teachers in these non-government schools. As the previous year saw the application of new and greatly improved salary scales for teachers in government schools, both primary and secondary, this year's agreement completes the picture so far as all teachers in recognised schools are concerned.

Distribution of milk to children of primary schools began on the 21st of March, and gradually expanded during the year.

A site was purchased at Rose Hill for the Government Girls Secondary School, which will open in January 1951 in temporary quarters.

The special problems facing the educationist in Mauritius are easier to see than to solve—a tiny land surface sheltering a teeming population, dependent on a one-crop economy, which itself is vulnerable to both cyclones and droughts. This population is of diverse racial origin and multilingual; it lives away from the main trade routes and, therefore, tends to be isolated and in-growing. It has no roots, no tribal tradition, customs or laws, no one foundation on which to build a stable future.

During the year, the Director of Education was absent from the Colony on secondment to *Unesco*, in charge of its pilot project in fundamental education in Haiti.

SOCIAL WELFARE

Since the 29th of August, 1950, the Public Assistance Department has been separated from the Labour Department. The present Public Assistance Commissioner and Social Welfare Adviser is an overseas officer with long experience of Old Age Pensions, Public Assistance, Health Insurance and all aspects of Social Welfare in the Colonies.

It is hoped that with the financial assistance of the Labour Welfare Fund, social welfare activities will be considerably developed, but the immediate duty of the Public Assistance Commissioner has been to put into operation the non-contributory Old Age Pensions Scheme. Details of this scheme will be found in Part II Chapter VII.

The Public Assistance Department is responsible, not only for the relief of distress, but for community organisation and for general co-ordination of social welfare work in the Colony. Work carried out by other departments includes: Allotments under the Agricultural Department, Youth Organisation under the Education Department, Occupational Therapy by the Medical Department, Probation under the Judicial Department, the Industrial School, the Borstal Institution and the Discharged Prisoners Aid Committee under the Prisons.

TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

The Adviser on Inland Transport to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, who visited the Colony in January, recommended a drastic reduction in the passenger service of the railways.

The number of buses on the roads again increased. New buses showed a marked improvement in design and provided greater comfort for the passengers.

Shipping services returned to normal as regards cargo vessels, but there was still a shortage of accommodation on the passenger lines. Air France maintained and improved their service to Mauritius.

The demand for new telephone services continued to exceed the supply and there was a large number of potential subscribers on the waiting list. There was an improvement in the distribution and delivery of mail throughout the island by the extension of the

use of a motor mail van service to supplement postal deliveries by rail. A twice daily delivery of correspondence is carried out in almost all parts of the island.

Overseas telecommunications are maintained by Cable and Wireless Ltd. Government operates a wireless ship-to-shore service.

The Mauritius Broadcasting Service made further progress. The duration of the short wave transmission, designed for overseas listeners, was increased from 5 hours to 5 hours 45 minutes daily. 1772 new radio licences, issued during the year, brought the total number of licences, at the end of December, to 8720. Many Village Councils have acquired community sets.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The constitution of the Municipality of Port Louis was modified by Ordinance No. 35 of 1950 to increase the membership of the Council from 12 to 16, and to provide for elections on the basis of the local parliamentary suffrage, except for certain special additional qualifications in respect of payment of municipal rates or taxes or trading licence fees, which existed under the old constitution and have been retained.

Under Ordinance No. 38 of 1950, the Boards of Commissioners of Beau Bassin-Rose Hill, Curepipe and Quatre Bornes have been reconstituted as Town Councils and the members are partly elected and partly nominated by the Governor. The franchise is similar to that of the Municipality of Port Louis. The Town Councils of Curepipe and Beau Bassin-Rose Hill are composed of nine elected and four nominated members. The Town Council of Quatre Bornes of seven elected and three nominated members.

Under the guidance of the Civil Commissioners the Village Councils, which numbered 84 at the end of the year, made further progress and legislation was prepared to give them statutory existence.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

With a view to reducing expenditure, the Legislative Council voted a reduction in the salary of the Public Relations Officer and the deletion of the post of Deputy Public Relations Officer, both measures to take effect on the transfer of the officer holding the post of Public Relations Officer in 1950.

VISITORS OF NOTE

The Colony welcomed four visitors from the Colonial Office in the course of the year: in January, Dr. E. D. Pridie, C.M.G., Chief Medical Adviser to the Secretary of State; in May, Mr. A. J. F. Bunnings, C.M.G., Adviser on Inland Transport; in July, Mr. W. C. Johnson, C.B.E., Inspector General of Colonial Police, and in November, Mr. C. B. Symes, O.B.E., of the Colonial Insecticides Committee. The Consul for the United States in Mombasa, whose jurisdiction includes Mauritius, visited the Colony in September. Other notable visitors included Mr. W. J. Haimes, of the Ministry of Labour and National Service; Professor J. Cambournac, Regional Malaria Consultant for Africa of the World Health Organisation; Vice Admiral Auboyneau, Commander in Chief, French Combined Forces Indian Ocean Area; Mr. Maurice Bedel of the Alliance Française; His Majesty's Consul-General in Madagascar, Commander F. C. Bishop, R.N. (Rtd); Mr. Jean Fayout, Mayor of Tananarive, Madagascar, and Mr. J. Ollivier, Mayor of Saint Denis, Réunion.

DIPLOMATIC EVENTS

Mr. John Thivy arrived in the Colony in September, to succeed Mr. Dharam Yash Dev as Commissioner for the Government of India.

The Chinese Consulate was closed on the 9th January and was not reopened during the year.

VISITING WARSHIPS

His Majesty's ships *Mauritius* and *Loch Glendhu* and the French sloop *La Gazelle* flying the flag of Vice Admiral Auboyneau, visited the Colony during the year.

THE DEVELOPMENT AND WELFARE TEN YEAR PLAN

In March 1949 a committee composed of six elected members and four nominated members of the Legislative Council was constituted with the following terms of reference:—

“ To consider the Development and Welfare Ten Year Plan and to make recommendations to the Government on such revision as may seem to the Committee desirable, paying due regard to the principles laid down for the formation of such Plans and to the conditions on which schemes and grants of funds have already been approved by the Secretary of State.”

The committee sat for eleven months and submitted four reports, in April and November 1949, and January and February 1950.

On the recommendation of the Committee, some recurrent expenditure in the Development and Welfare Estimates was transferred to the General Estimates of the Colony, and important changes were made in the allocation of funds under various schemes of the Ten Year Plan. The reallocation of funds, as shown in Appendix V, gives greater importance to economic projects.

Water Works

One of the main recommendations of the Development and Welfare Reviewing Committee, was that the provision of Rs. 25,000,000 for water works, included in the Ten Year Plan, should be increased by Rs. 10,000,000, to provide for the implementation of two irrigation and hydro-electric projects which had already been planned, but put in abeyance until other projects were more advanced. These additional projects are:—

- (a) the construction of a reservoir of about 600 million cubic feet at Midlands, to complete the original Midlands—La Nicolière irrigation scheme with an electric power station between these two reservoirs;
- (b) the construction of a reservoir of 220 million cubic feet with an electric power station at Eau Bleue.

The progress made in other water works is described in Chapter X.

Anti-Malaria Measures

The two-year anti-malaria campaign, using insecticides, was completed in December. This campaign, together with the progress made in the drainage of marshes and the canalisation of rivers, gave very promising results:—

- (a) the incidence of malaria fell very considerably in all districts ;
- (b) *A. Funestus*, in both larval and adult forms, disappeared from the Colony except in two localised areas, one in the district of Black River and the other in Rivière du Rempart ;
- (c) *A. Gambiae*, in its adult form, is now seldom found in the habitations of human beings or domestic animals, but larvae are still found in large numbers, during the summer months, in normal breeding places.

This achievement has encouraged the Government to give consideration to a campaign aimed at the eradication of the mosquito vector by a combination of the following methods:—

- (a) Residual spraying ;
- (b) Larvicidal measures ;
- (c) Engineering works and maintenance.

A preliminary sample survey of the social effects of the malaria eradication campaign was carried out, but its results are not yet available.

Agriculture

A new Sugarcane Research Station, the cost of which was paid from the Mauritius Development and Welfare Fund, was opened by His Excellency the Governor on the 12th January. Its object was defined by Sir Hilary Blood in his inaugural speech: " Every sugar growing colony has to devote time and money to the process of seeking that elusive strain of cane which will be impervious to weather, hardened to drought, inured to disease, resistant to age, and productive of sucrose in undreamt of quantities."

A noteworthy achievement under the Development Scheme No. R.38 was the virtual destruction of the *cordia macrostachya* pest which had caused so much trouble to planters in the past.

The Building Programme

The building programme progressed very slowly on account of the lack of supervisory staff. Unfortunately there was no sign of improvement in the shortage of qualified and experienced technicians.

The progress made in various directions under Development and Welfare schemes is described elsewhere in this report. Progress was slow during the first five years of the Ten Year Plan, but it is hoped that it will be accelerated during the second period as a result of experience gained and difficulties overcome.

THE BRITISH COUNCIL

Before the arrival of Mr. John Sutherland, its first full-time representative, in December 1949, the work of the British Council consisted chiefly of the award of scholarships, the presentation of books, periodicals, films, gramophone records and pamphlets to various institutions in the Colony and the maintenance of a Library in Rose Hill.

This and similar work has continued throughout the year. In March the Representative of the Council began a series of weekly broadcasts on English Literature, music and other topics. A number of exhibitions were held, two in connection with the centenaries of William Wordsworth and Robert Louis Stevenson, one of educational books and periodicals, and another of British Book Design. Two bursaries were awarded for study in the United Kingdom, one for youth organisation and the other for handicraft teaching.

A small library, mainly of juvenile fiction, was established in Rodrigues.

On the 6th of October, His Excellency the Governor inaugurated the first Mauritius Arts Week (*La Semaine de l'Art de l'Ile Maurice*) which was organised by the Council's Representative, with the collaboration of the *Alliance Française*, *le Cercle Littéraire de Port Louis*, *le Cercle de Rose Hill*, *the Chinese Students Association*, *le Comité de Souvenirs Historiques*, *the Indian Cultural Association*, *the Mauritius Dramatic Club*, *the Royal Society of Arts and Sciences of Mauritius*, *la Société de l'Histoire de l'Ile Maurice*, *la Société des Ecrivains Mauriciens* and *la Société des Lettres et des Arts de l'Ile Maurice*. During the week there were exhibitions of painting and sculpture, photography and cinematography, and of books and historical documents. There were also concerts, plays, lectures and special broadcasts.

THE SERVICES

The Army

The location of the Royal Pioneer Corps Depot and Training Centre was moved from Bell Village to Le Chaland.

During the year, there were 1,955 enlistments into, and 3,843 discharges from, the Royal Pioneer Corps.

Mauritius Sub Area, the local command, is a part of East Africa Command.

Army Day

Between 500 and 600 persons attended the exhibition at Bell Village on the 27th of May.

The purpose of Army Day is to allow the civilian population an insight into the living and working conditions of the troops, and to give them an idea of the tasks of various units and of the weapons and technical equipment used by them.

Army Day opened in Port Louis by a searchlight display on the night of the 26th of May, and by a march through the town on the morning of the 27th of May, at which His Excellency the Governor took the salute.

In the afternoon the arena at Bell Village was opened to the public and a number of display tents exhibited the equipment and organisation of each arm. In many cases the public were enabled to handle and test equipment.

Various demonstrations took place during the afternoon, starting with a salute from 25 pounder guns of the 1st Mauritius Coast Battery. These demonstrations ranged from drill displays and humorous incidents in the life of Mauritian soldiers in Egypt, to the assembly of a jeep by R.E.M.E. and a platoon attack, using live ammunition, staged by the 6th (Tanganyika) Battalion, King's African Rifles. Military and Police Bands played during the afternoon, and the day came to a close with the ceremonial beating of the Retreat.

Competition Shooting

During the year the Army competed against the Police and Civilian Rifle Clubs and won the Jubilee Cup (for which a team from H.M.S. *Mauritius* also competed), and the Jackson Shield (Team event forming part of the Mauritius Rifle Association Meeting).

THE MAURITIUS NAVAL VOLUNTEER FORCE

The first drill by the Mauritius Naval Volunteer Force was carried out on the 29th of September, 1949 ; since then, regular drills have taken place every Tuesday and Thursday with the exception of public holidays. There have also been additional guards, ceremonials and inspections on Army Day, the King's Birthday, Armistice Day and on the occasion of the inspection of the Mauritius Naval Volunteer Force by the Commanding Officer H.M.S. *Mauritius* and the opening of the Naval Museum at Mahebourg.

The first camp was held at Cannoniers' Point in November. The men were taught to live under normal naval conditions with a naval routine. Opportunity was taken to teach the ratings how to swim. A considerable amount of boat work was carried out in the Force's own craft, an ex-T.R.V. renamed *Sambur* and M.F.V. 189.

CONCLUSION

The prosperity brought about by a record sugar crop, the assistance given by the Old Age Pensions Scheme to the poor, improvement in the despatch of business in the Legislative Council, and the buoyancy of the budget, are all matters for satisfaction. But, as in every country, the tense international situation has contributed to a sharp rise in the cost of living, and there will be many difficulties to overcome in 1951. Progress in every sphere of the Colony's life will depend on the full co-operation of all sections of the community.

PART II

Chapter I—Population

Up to the year 1834, the population of the Island was composed entirely of the descendants of European settlers and the African slaves they imported. By then, however, it had been thought expedient to import free labourers who would accept small wages. This started the immigration from the Indian continent which continued until about 1910. Most of these immigrants have now settled in the island, and to-day greatly outnumber the inhabitants of European and African origin. There is also a small community of Chinese immigrants.

For statistical purposes, the convention has been adopted of dividing the whole population into three classes:—

- (1) the General population, comprising Europeans and descendants of Europeans and people of African and mixed origin;
- (2) the Indo-Mauritian population proper, made up of immigrants from the Continent of India and their unmixed descendants; and
- (3) the Chinese population, consisting of immigrants from China and their descendants.

Of these three classes, the Indo-Mauritian constitutes the largest percentage of the population (64%). This population is divided into two main groups, Hindus and Moslems, in the ratio of about 3·5 to 1. The Chinese are the smallest racial group, constituting only about 3% of the total population. They are engaged for the most part in trade, and practically monopolise the retail grocery and liquor trade of the island.

The resident population of the Island as at 31st December, 1950, was, in round numbers, 475,000, not counting the 15,200 inhabitants of the neighbouring islands which are dependencies of Mauritius. This figure also excludes military forces and civilians habitually resident in the Island, but temporarily absent overseas on military service, or as tourists and students.

The present population is three times what it was a century ago. It has been steadily increasing in the course of the last ten years at an average rate of 5,800 per annum or roughly 13 persons

per 1,000 of the population. The density of population in different parts of this small Island, measuring barely 720 square miles, is extraordinarily variable. In the low-lying western district there is a population density of a little more than a hundred persons to the square mile; but on the central plateau, migration has brought about a concentration of more than one thousand persons to the square mile. In the towns there is considerable overcrowding. In the capital, Port Louis, recent census enumeration has revealed the existence of 27,000 persons living in one single square mile. In the second largest town, Curepipe, the number of inhabitants per unit area has increased by 40 per cent in the last thirteen years. Thirty-seven per cent of the total population, at present, live in towns. The population of the principal townships at the census of 1944 were as follows:—

| | | | | |
|-------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|--------|
| (1) Port Louis | ... | ... | ... | 57,446 |
| (2) Curepipe | ... | ... | ... | 27,468 |
| (3) Rose Hill and Beau Bassin | ... | ... | ... | 26,612 |
| (4) Quatre Bornes | ... | ... | ... | 11,100 |

Sex distribution of population

One noteworthy feature of ethnical significance, differentiating the two main classes of the population, is to be found in the sex distribution. In the General population the number of females has nearly always been in excess of the number of males, while in the Indo-Mauritian population it has always been the reverse. This difference is not accounted for by the preponderance of the one sex in the birth rate, because, although both these sections of the population start with a preponderantly male birth rate, the population statistics show, in the case of the Indo-Mauritians, a majority of males and, in the case of the General population, a majority of females.

The disproportion between the sexes in the Indo-Mauritian population is of long standing and is due to the preponderance of male immigration in the past. This disproportion has been gradually readjusting itself naturally during the past century, though the effect may still persist to a certain degree. The census of 1944 shows that, in the General Population after the age of fifty, the survival of the female is greater than that of the male. In the Indo-Mauritian population, it is after the age of sixty that the survival of the female is markedly greater than that of the male. The sex distribution of the total population—comprising the three classes—is 236,744 males and 238,642 females.

Birth rate

The birth rate in the General population, which had dropped during the decade 1936-1945 from an average of about 36 per 1000 in 1936 to about 32 per 1000 in 1945, increased in subsequent years as follows:—

| <i>Year</i> | | | | <i>Per thousand</i> |
|-------------|-----|-----|-----|---------------------|
| 1947 | ... | ... | ... | 37 |
| 1948 | ... | ... | ... | 36 |
| 1949 | ... | ... | ... | 37 |

The birth rate has in recent years increased to a much greater extent in the Indo-Mauritian population, as is shewn by the following figures:—

| <i>Year</i> | | | | <i>Per thousand</i> |
|-------------|-----|-----|-----|---------------------|
| 1943 | ... | ... | ... | 33 |
| 1944 | ... | ... | ... | 50.6 |
| 1945 | ... | ... | ... | 42 |
| 1946 | ... | ... | ... | 42 |
| 1948 | ... | ... | ... | 47 |
| 1949 | ... | ... | ... | 51 |

The total number of births for 1950 in the Island has reached the record figure of 23,110, which represents nearly 50 per 1000 of the population.

Death rate

The death rate, which at a previous ten-year-average level, was 28.3 per 1000 for the whole population, increased to 36.1 per 1000 in 1945, the year of two severe cyclones. This rate, however, dropped in subsequent years as follows:—

| <i>Year</i> | | | | <i>Per thousand</i> |
|-------------|-----|-----|-----|---------------------|
| 1947 | ... | ... | ... | 20.1 |
| 1948 | ... | ... | ... | 23.8 |
| 1949 | ... | ... | ... | 16.6 |
| 1950 | ... | ... | ... | 13.9 |

The figure for 1950 is the lowest death-rate on record.

Infantile mortality is comparatively high in Mauritius. The following table shows the rate for the past six years:—

| <i>Year</i> | | | | <i>Per thousand</i> |
|-------------|-----|-----|-----|---------------------|
| 1945 | ... | ... | ... | 188 |
| 1946 | ... | ... | ... | 145.4 |
| 1947 | ... | ... | ... | 113.9 |
| 1948 | ... | ... | ... | 186 |
| 1949 | ... | ... | ... | 91 |
| 1950 | ... | ... | ... | 76 |

Marriages

The 1944 census revealed that about 35% of the marriageable persons of both sexes in the General population were married according to religious rites or by civil contract. In the Indo-Mauritian population, the corresponding percentage is 50.

Workmen and School children

The number of manual workers is approximately 135,000 of which 52 per cent are agricultural workers. The sugar industry, the main industry of the Island, gave employment in 1950 to an average of about 4,100 skilled workers and to somewhat over 56,000 unskilled workers. Of these unskilled workers, 33,000 were males, 18,000 females and 5,000 juveniles. A seasonal fluctuation of about 13% of the average in employment takes place annually in this industry.

The secondary industries of the Island, of which the more important are aloe fibre extraction, alcohol distilling from molasses, and the manufacture of tea and tobacco, provide employment for some 4,100 skilled workers, 4,700 unskilled males, 2,100 females and some 1,400 juveniles. The public services employ about 2,300 skilled workers and 9,000 unskilled men, 500 females and 250 juveniles. The total number of persons in salaried employment in all industries and public services is estimated to total 10,500 skilled workers, 47,000 unskilled men and some 27,000 women and juveniles.

In October 1950, the estimated number of children in Mauritius between the ages of five and fourteen years (inclusive) was 102,000 and the total number admitted to schools was 55,582. Of these, 52,873 were in the 138 Primary Schools—23,150 in Government Schools and 29,723 in Aided Schools—the latter consisting of 49 Roman Catholic, 17 Church of England, 5 Hindu and 2 Muslim schools. The dependency of Rodrigues has four schools to cater for 2,050 children.

Religion

Religious creeds in Mauritius correspond roughly to the classification adopted for dividing up the population. Nearly 98% of the General population are Christians of the Church of Rome or of the Church of England; 77% of the Indo-Mauritians are Hindus, 22% are Mahomedans; the remainder are christianized Indians. The Chinese are almost exclusively Buddhists.

Chapter II—Occupations, Wages and Labour Organisations

THE SUGAR INDUSTRY

The value of the sugar annually exported from Mauritius represents, on an average, more than 96% of the total value of all exports from the Colony. Thus the sugar industry governs the entire economy of the island, it embraces not only all those persons directly or indirectly interested in the planting of sugarcane and in the manufacture of sugar and its by-products, and interested in the financing of the cultivation, manufacture and marketing of the product, but also affects, very largely, the public revenue and those classes of people such as merchants and bankers, whose business is mainly connected therewith.

Figures concerning employment in the sugar industry are given in the previous chapter in the section dealing with workers. Much of the estate work is still of a manual nature, though mechanization of field work is being pushed as rapidly as imports of bull-dozers, rotary ploughs and tractors and the rocky nature of the soil, permit. Because of this latter factor it is unlikely that the industry can ever become fully mechanized. So long as Mauritius grows sugar there will be a place for the hand hoe, cutting knife and sickle.

OTHER OCCUPATIONS

Other occupations include the aloe fibre (*Furcroea Gigantea*) industry, which produces fibre for making bags for the sugar industry; the tea industry, which is at present operating on a comparatively small scale and producing tea for local consumption; tobacco growing; food crops and the cultivation of vegetables; and the rearing of milch cows and livestock on a small scale.

Minor industries include fishing, sawmills, garages, workshops, salt pans, lime kilns, furniture manufacture, charcoal burning, match manufacture, the preparation of hides and skins, tanning and boot and shoe manufacture, clothing and shirt manufacture, printing, etc.

Apart from agricultural and industrial occupations, many of the population are employed as clerical workers, both in commerce and Government service, and as domestic servants.

Unemployment is becoming a serious problem in this island for two main reasons—firstly, because the population is increasing steadily, and secondly, because the principal industry is employing less labour, due to centralization of sugar factories, the introduction of machinery and the new varieties of sugarcanes. Though there is full employment among agricultural workers during the five months crop season of the year, unemployment exists amongst this category of workers, in certain areas, at certain times, for the remaining period of the year; an effort is usually made, through the machinery of the Local Employment Committees, to alleviate unemployment by the issue of permits to recruit labourers by lorry transport from localities where there is unemployment; if these means also fail, relief work is started as a temporary measure. Government departments employing labour are required to reserve, as much as possible, their major works for the intercrop season. Government departments recruit their labour through the Employment Registration Bureau and when workers are discharged from employment, they are referred to the Bureau for registration as unemployed. Thus, a control of the unemployment situation and the means of alleviating it are assured, at least temporarily.

WAGES

The level of wages is largely determined by the rates prevailing in the sugar industry. In this industry minimum rates of wages for workers of the artisan category (represented by the Mauritius Engineering and Technical Workers' Union) and for labourers (represented by the Mauritius Amalgamated Labourers' Association) were negotiated by collective bargaining between the two unions and the employers' organisation, the Sugar Producers' Association. The principle of collective bargaining has also been adopted by dock workers, by workers in the electricity supply companies, workers of the artisan category who are members of the Mauritius Engineering and Technical Workers' Union and the respective employers' organisations. The wages of workers in most other industries are thought to be sufficiently protected, in general, by the minimum rates payable in the sugar industry, because of the element of competition for labour. In certain industries, however, where the trade union organisation is weak and incapable of fully representing the interests of its members, recourse has been had to orders issued under the Minimum Wage Ordinance. Orders of this nature have been issued in respect of bakers and of workers in the printing trade.

Wage rates in the sugar and other industries are complicated by subdivision into different categories of work and different categories of worker. Typical minimum rates are:—

Sugar Industry

(a) MONTHLY EMPLOYEES

Labourers :—

| | | | | |
|--------|-----|-----|---------|--------------------------------------|
| Men... | ... | ... | Class I | Rs. 30.00 per month (Basic rate) |
| | | | | Rs. 6.00 ,, (Regularity Bonus) |
| | | | | Crop time only). |
| | | | | Rs. 4.50 ,, (End of crop bonus). |
| | | | | Rs. 25.50 ,, (Cost of living bonus). |
| | | | | Rs. 2.50 ,, (End of year gratuity). |
| | | | | Total : Rs. 68.50 per month (Crop). |
| | | | | Rs. 62.50 ,, (Intercrop). |

Women and Young

| | | | | |
|----------|-----|-----|---------|--|
| Persons | ... | ... | Class I | Total : Rs. 43.46 ,, (Crop). |
| | | | | Rs. 39.48 ,, (Intercrop). |
| Children | ... | ... | | Rs. 31.65 per month (Crop) ; Rs. 28.86 per month (intercrop) (basic rate + Bonuses). |
| Artisans | ... | ... | | Rs. 60 to Rs. 262 per month. |

Overtime, sickness allowance, housing accommodation, paid holidays, annual leave and a maternity allowance of Rs. 10 for each case, are also provided for.

(b) DAILY WORKERS*

Labourers :

| | | | | |
|----------|-----|-----|---------|--|
| Men... | ... | ... | Class I | Rs. 1.60 per day (Basic rate). |
| | | | | Rs. 1.36 ,, (Cost of living bonus), |
| | | | | Total : Rs. 2.96 per day. |
| Women | ... | ... | Class I | Rs. 1.48 per day (including Cost of living bonus). |
| Artisans | ... | ... | | Rs. 2.60 to Rs. 4.38 per day. |

Labourers paid directly by the estate are further entitled to a daily allowance representing 7% on their basic wage per working day.

Other Industries

| | | | | |
|------------------|-----|-----|-----|------------------------------|
| Dock Workers :— | | | | Rs. 73 to Rs. 145 per month |
| | | | | Rs. 2.97 to Rs. 8.05 per day |
| Artisans | ... | ... | ... | Rs. 85 to Rs. 150 per month |
| | | | | Rs. 2 to Rs. 6 per day |
| Printing Workers | ... | ... | | Rs. 3 to Rs. 5.25 per day |
| Shop Assistants | ... | ... | | Rs. 60 to Rs. 160 per month. |

HOURS OF WORK

In all cases where workers are employed upon a time-basis the day is 8 hours long, but where employed upon a task or piece work basis it may be only 5 hours. Government office hours are from 9 a.m. to 3.30 p.m., with half an hour's break for lunch. Business offices and most of the shops in Port Louis follow more or less the same time-table.

COST OF LIVING

(a) for Officials

Officials, be they Mauritians or from the United Kingdom, are faced with a very high cost of living due mainly to the dependence of the Colony on imports which, with the cost of transport and Customs duty added, bring most articles to a price level above that ruling in Europe. It is higher for those of the overseas officials who are posted to the Colony for comparatively short tours. House rents tend to rise if the lease is short, and are highest in the areas most salubrious to persons accustomed to the climate of the British Isles. The number of Government houses is very limited and officials are obliged to make private arrangements for their accommodation. Houses are not labour saving and cannot be run without the assistance of a number of servants. Cheap transport is only available during certain hours of the day, so that for shopping expeditions, social obligations and family outings a private motor car or the use of a taxi is almost essential. Many of the articles for sale in the shops and elsewhere have no fixed price and local inhabitants can buy at a cheaper rate than the *oultre-meriens*, as Mauritians nickname the British officials. Intestinal diseases are common and medicines, doctors, chemists and dentists' bills are considerable items in the budget.

(b) for local workers

The cost of living index number, as compiled for agricultural working class families, was 123.3 in January and 126 in December, as compared with the basic rate of 100 for March, 1946.

THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT

Perhaps the Labour Department can trace some link in the past with the office of the Protector of Slaves, for that office was succeeded by the bureau of the Protector of Immigrants, and, when immigration had ceased, the Poor Law Commissioner occupied the building and also administered the Labour Law. This law was thoroughly revised in 1878, again in 1922, and again in 1938. The same year an Ordinance legalized the existence of associations in

restraint of trade, and the Director of Labour was given certain powers for regulating the settlement of industrial disputes. The Labour Ordinance, 1938, provided for the appointment of a Director of Labour and staff, in order to "perform all duties imposed and exercise all powers conferred" on him by this Ordinance. The title of Director of Labour was later amended to that of Labour Commissioner.

The Labour Commissioner and one Assistant Commissioner (Trade Unions) are recruited overseas, the other two Assistant Commissioner and the rest of the staff are recruited locally. The field staff consists of thirteen Labour Officers, including one woman officer who is particularly responsible for housing conditions, a statistician, and an officer specialised in accident-prevention when power-driven machinery is used industrially.

Amongst the senior officers, duties are divided functionally, e.g., conciliation, trade union relations, law-enforcement, sufficiency of employment; but amongst the junior officers, duties are divided territorially, and they are responsible under the senior officer to whom they are attached for whatever duties are allotted to them in their particular districts. These district labour officers perform a most important task because, being in close and continuous contact with the mass of the workers, they can help the worker to understand and make use of the labour laws, and sometimes to grasp economic laws, though as a rule the man in the Mauritian street prefers to lay the blame for economic difficulties on individuals known to him, rather than on distant and world-wide events.

During the year the recommendation of the Commission of Enquiry of 1943 was implemented, and the Labour Commissioner was relieved of the responsibility of administering the Public Assistance Department in addition to his own department. The time thus saved has been in great part devoted again to a duty which is not strictly relevant to labour, namely the distribution of help to ex-servicemen. The Labour Commissioner is *ex-officio* Chairman of the Ex-servicemen's Welfare Fund Committee (see page 26). The number of applicants for help is large, and each case has to be studied individually.

Keen officers have also raised the importance of two branches of the Labour Department, the Labour Exchanges and the inspection of camps and factories. The Labour Exchange Manager has followed a course of training in the United Kingdom, and has

introduced here such part of what he learnt as can be applied to a small island. The result during the year has been very satisfactory in raising the number of persons placed from a handful to several hundred monthly. In consequence both employers and workers are putting more confidence in the exchanges.

Inspection of camps and factories has been much more thorough. Careful reports are prepared, and copies of the relevant portions are sent to the employers concerned, with a request for early action. These letters are followed up by further inspections, and a warning of prosecution if no action is taken by the employer. The number of factories registered has also increased considerably. An unfortunate gap in control is found when a workshop does not use machinery, but a draft amendment to the law is being prepared.

Many sugar estates house part of their labour force on the estate, and a group of such lodgings is called a camp. Under the Labour Ordinance the state of these camps must not fall below a certain standard, and it is the duty of the Labour Department to inspect the camps from time to time. This is now being done very thoroughly by a woman-officer specially appointed for the purpose.

The Employment Registration Bureau which was opened at the beginning of the year 1949 is organized in three main centres and two sub-centres. Other sub-centres are opened during the intercrop season in order to facilitate the registration of unemployed persons and notification of employment. The Manager of the Bureau is also the Statistician of the Labour Department.

During the later part of the year, the Employment Branch of the Reabsorption Office which was responsible for the resettlement of Ex-Servicemen and had been detached from the Employment Registration Bureau during the early part of the year, has again been amalgamated with the Bureau. The Bureau has now on its staff two placing officers, three interviewing officers, eight clerks and two part-time regional interviewing officers.

The purpose of the Bureau is to put employers seeking workers in touch with workers seeking specific employment. The worker is classified on the basis of an evaluation of all his occupational qualifications as shown by work-experience, training and personal characteristics; workers are also trade-tested whenever and wherever necessary and are graded accordingly. Vocational guidance is given to certain categories, especially to demobilised ex-servicemen.

Government department vacancies which must be filled by local recruitment outside the service and which are not filled by advertisement and a Board of Selection, are filled by the Employment Registration Bureau.

The Statistical table at Appendix VI gives an idea of the activities of the Bureau concerning:—

(a) Civilians; and

(b) Ex-servicemen.

LABOUR ORGANISATIONS

Labour has organized itself into 35 Associations or Trade Unions composed of 13 associations of employees, 8 of employers, 12 of Government Servants, one of persons working for themselves and one of persons either working for themselves or hiring their services. The total membership on the rolls is given as 33,139, of which 20,002 are paid-up members.

Of these the most important workers' organisations are:—

| | <i>No. shown on roll</i> | <i>No. who have ceased to be members</i> | <i>No. of members on 31.12.50</i> |
|--|------------------------------|--|---|
| Mauritius Engineering and Technical Workers' Union | 6036 | 3136 | 2900 |
| General Port and Harbour Workers' Union | 1600 | — | 1600 |
| General Workers' Union | 2112 | 674 | 1438 |
| Government Public Works Manual Workers' Union | 2045 | 793 | 1252 |
| Government Servants and Employees Association | 1985 | 777 | 1208 |
| Railway Workers' Union | 1680 | 988 | 692 |
| Government Teachers' Union | 467 | — | 467 |
| Mauritius Amalgamated Labourers' Association | 12437 | 6223 | 6214 |

The more influential employers' organisations are:—

| | <i>No. of members on 31.12.50</i> |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| Sugar Producers' Association ... | 66 |
| Federation of Port and Harbour Employers | 11 |
| Tobacco Producers' Syndicate ... | 43 |
| Planters' Association | 1446 |

LEGISLATION

The main legislation affecting labour relations is :—

| | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|---|
| The Labour Ordinance | ... | ... | ... | No. 47 of 1938 |
| The Women and Young Persons and Children Ordinance | ... | ... | ... | No. 37 of 1934, No. 16 of 1935 and No. 43 of 1945 |
| The Factories Ordinance... | ... | ... | ... | No. 42 of 1946 |
| The Shop Hours Ordinance | ... | ... | ... | No. 3 of 1942, No. 56 of 1945 and No. 72 of 1946 |
| The Industrial Associations Ordinance | ... | ... | ... | No. 7 of 1938 |
| The Workmen's Compensation Ordinance | ... | ... | ... | No. 13 of 1931, No. 64 of 1947 as variously amended |
| The Employment Exchange Ordinance | ... | ... | ... | No. 67 of 1947 |
| The Trade Disputes Ordinance | ... | ... | ... | No. 68 of 1947 |
| The Minimum Wages Ordinance | ... | ... | ... | No. 36 of 1950 |
| The Apprenticeship Ordinance | ... | ... | ... | No. 13 of 1946 |
| The Recruitment of Workers Ordinance | ... | ... | ... | No. 3 of 1938 |
| The Emigration Ordinance | ... | ... | ... | No. 12 of 1933 |

THE EXSERVICEMEN'S WELFARE FUND

In common with other countries, Mauritius has had to provide machinery for the resettlement in civil life of the thousands of men and women who were on active service during the war. A National Service Office, which functioned until the end of June 1948, consisted of two branches: the Reabsorption Office and the Occupational Registration. The latter has been closed down, and the Reabsorption Office has been divided into two sections—the Employment Branch and the Assistance Branch. The Employment Branch is administered as a section of the Employment Registration Bureau. The assistance branch is under a supervisor responsible to the Ex-servicemen's Welfare Fund Committee, the Chairman of which is the Labour Commissioner. This Committee is responsible for the distribution of some Rs. 400,000 annually, with the object of resettling ex-servicemen in civil life. Help is limited to those who served in the Forces during the war years, but there are still about 10,000 ex-servicemen who qualify as applicants. Help usually takes the form of providing tools, paying off debts, paying transport to find work, paying for medical benefits not obtainable from the Government hospitals, paying for retraining, and similar purposes.

Chapter III—Public Finance and Taxation

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE

The following tables give a comparison under main Heads of the Revenue and Expenditure of the Colony for the years ended 30th June, 1939, 1949 and 1950.

REVENUE

| Main Head | Year ended 30th June | | |
|--|----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | 1939 Rs. | 1949 Rs. | 1950 Rs. |
| 1. Customs | 5,902,101 | 10,967,937 | 13,125,948 |
| 2. Port, Harbour and Light Dues ... | 549,500 | 941,606 | 1,181,446 |
| 3. Licences, Excise and Internal Revenue not otherwise classified. | 6,510,242 | 24,874,968 | 29,095,295 |
| 4. Fees of Court or Office and payments for Specific Services ... | 851,782 | 2,360,657 | 2,953,345 |
| 5. Reimbursements | 1,446,273 | 2,175,338 | 2,359,792 |
| 6. Rent of Government Properties ... | 229,220 | 358,980 | 390,888 |
| 7. Interest | 486,474 | 757,587 | 789,428 |
| 8. Miscellaneous Receipts | 328,054 | 1,040,473 | 2,330,035 |
| 9. Posts, Telegraphs and Wireless ... | 370,610 | 1,136,435 | 928,678 |
| 10. Land Sales | 329 | — | 290 |
| 11. Special Revenue | 788,462 | 1,639,427 | 1,505,375 |
| 12. Colonial Development Fund ... | 15,858 | — | — |
| 13. Railways | 371,933 | 18,485 | 347,482 |
| 14. Surplus on Loan Redemption ... | — | — | 92,212 |
| TOTAL ... | 17,850,838 | 46,271,893 | 55,100,214 |

The items which call for comment when comparing the 1948-49 with the 1949-50 figures are items 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 13 and 14. The excess under the first two items is largely due to the steady increase in the Import and Shipping Trade. The excess under item 3 is mainly due to increases (i) in the consumption of country liquor and tobacco (ii) in the yield of the Poll Tax and Companies Tax and (iii) in the collection of stamp duty and succession fees. The excess under item 4 is due to an extension of the Electricity and Telephone Services. The increase under item 5 is due to the repayment before maturity date of Capital and Interest by the Government Sack Factory. The increase under item 8 is mainly due to the transfer to Revenue of the profits realised under the Bulk Purchase Scheme and the Maize Mill. The excess under item 13 represents the value of Railway assets demolished during the year; and the Revenue under item 14 is the result of the redemption of the Sugar Industry Loan of 1929.

EXPENDITURE

| Main Head | Year ended 30th June | | |
|---|----------------------|-------------|-------------|
| | 1939 Rs. | 1949 Rs. | 1950 Rs. |
| 1. Public Debt | 2,292,014 | 2,430,805 | 2,635,410 |
| 2. Pensions and Gratuities | 1,695,428 | 2,379,501 | 2,455,977 |
| 3. Governor | 82,659 | 89,630 | 121,350 |
| 4. Accountant General | 197,112 | 183,122 | 208,312 |
| 5. Agriculture | 542,286 | 478,974 | 813,895 |
| 6. Audit | 79,185 | 104,035 | 118,192 |
| 7. Central Administration | 88,893 | 379,311 | 439,095 |
| 8. Central Statistical Office | — | 39,790 | 43,846 |
| 9. Civil Aviation | — | 225,330 | 230,848 |
| 10. Customs and Excise... .. | — | 529,892 | 529,791 |
| 10a Customs, Harbour, Port and Marine | 613,206 | — | — |
| 11. Development and Welfare | — | — | 950,000 |
| 12. District Administration | — | 67,215 | 62,934 |
| 13. Ecclesiastical | 211,914 | 198,490 | 213,967 |
| 14. Education | 1,441,412 | 2,441,858 | 4,494,851 |
| 15. Electricity | 178,248 | 1,155,056 | 1,409,714 |
| 16. Fire Services | — | 160,201 | 178,315 |
| 17. Forests | 203,331 | 722,945 | 880,331 |
| 18. Granary | 79,421 | 135,819 | 108,239 |
| 19. Harbour and Quays... .. | — | 961,071 | 794,386 |
| 20. Health | 1,477,202 | 3,962,228 | 3,948,429 |
| 21. Judicial | 402,390 | 490,904 | 536,910 |
| 22. Labour | 770,307 | 230,922 | 205,828 |
| 23. Legal | 99,564 | 97,160 | 87,568 |
| 24. Legislature | 12,889 | 265,111 | 248,081 |
| 25. Mauritius Institute Public (Library and Museum) | 17,115 | 45,842 | 39,912 |
| 26. Mauritius Naval Volunteer Force ... | — | 28,591 | 68,321 |
| 27. Military | 935,903 | 1,084,632 | 1,054,351 |
| 28. Miscellaneous... .. | 1,107,217 | 1,076,304 | 1,058,043 |
| 29. Observatory | 41,543 | 114,961 | 93,797 |
| 30. Police | 970,903 | 1,518,484 | 1,832,228 |
| 31. Poll Tax | — | 60,794 | 90,096 |
| 32. Posts and Telegraphs | 322,521 | 545,389 | 679,394 |
| 33. Printing Office | 107,772 | 448,925 | 240,100 |
| 34. Prisons and Industrial School ... | 178,741 | 477,510 | 577,255 |
| 35. Public Assistance | — | 982,762 | 1,281,726 |
| 36. Public Works and Surveys... .. | 340,007 | 784,311 | 907,930 |
| 37. Public Works Annually Recurrent | 1,039,379 | 2,232,771 | 2,301,209 |
| 38. Public Works Extraordinary ... | 228,204 | 296,631 | 527,826 |
| 39. Railways | 765,444 | 1,505,252 | 1,994,438 |
| 40. Registrar General | 113,897 | 154,414 | 156,240 |
| 41. Special Expenditure... .. | 6,788,462 | 890,223 | 2,160,265 |
| 42. Subventions | — | 1,048,193 | 1,228,343 |
| 43. Emergency Services... .. | — | 10,475,398 | 9,599,232 |
| 44. Supplementary Sinking Fund ... | — | — | 92,212 |
| 45. Development and Welfare | — | 2,500,000 | 2,500,000 |
| Municipal | 398,317 | — | — |
| Harbour | 143,755 | — | — |
| Industrial School | 34,298 | — | — |
| TOTAL | 24,000,939 | 44,000,757 | 50,199,187 |

In comparing 1948-49 with 1949-50 figures, the following items call for comment.

Item 1—See Revenue item 5.

Item 2—The excess is due to the payment of revised rates of cost of living allowance to beneficiaries of the Widows' and Orphans' Pensions Fund.

Item 5—The excess is mainly due to the transfer of several posts from the Development and Welfare Budget.

Item 7—The excess is due to the creation of new posts.

Item 11—Contribution from the General Revenue to the Development and Welfare.

Item 14—The excess is due to the revision of salaries with effect from 1st July, 1947, of School Teachers and to the distribution of milk to School children.

Item 15—The excess is due to a temporary increase in the stock of the " Unallocated Stores "

Item 17—Excess due to increased exploitation of forest produce, compensated by Revenue.

Item 18—The decrease is due to the non-execution of certain works.

Item 19—The decrease is mainly due to a reduction under non-recurrent expenditure.

Item 21—The increase is due to the creation of 2 new posts of Magistrate and to salary revision.

Item 30—The excess is mainly due to an increase in the staff of the Police Force and to salary revision.

Item 32—Increase consequent upon the revision of salaries of Postal clerks and officers.

Item 33—The decrease is due to non-renewal of certain plants and types.

- Item 34—Excess due to salary revision and to increase in prices of provisions.
- Item 35—Excess due to an increase in the grants to charitable institutions.
- Item 36—Excess due to an increase in establishment coupled with salary revision.
- Item 37—Excess due to continuation of works started during the previous year and extensive cleaning of water supply dams.
- Item 38—Excess due to several important works and repairs being undertaken.
- Item 39—Excess mainly due to increase in the price of coal.
- Item 41—Excess due to new loans being made.
- Item 42—Excess due to subsidies to Village Councils and contributions to Ex-servicemen's Welfare Fund.
- Item 43—Decrease mainly due to reduction in the cost of "subsidisation of commodities" and the restricted activities of the Maize Mill.
- Item 44—Investment of the surplus on the redemption of the Sugar Industry Loan of 1929.

PUBLIC DEBT

The Public Debt of the Colony on the 30th June, 1950, was Rs. 39,119,717. Against this liability there was an accumulated Sinking Fund of Rs. 16,794,711.

Local loan issues accounted for Rs. 15,850,016 of the Public Debt, as detailed below:—

| | <i>Rs.</i> |
|---|-------------------|
| Mauritius Loan, 1922 | 5,000,000 |
| Agricultural Bank Loan (No. 1) 1937 ... | 1,740,000 |
| Agricultural Bank Loan (No. 2) 1937 ... | 1,600,000 |
| Mauritius War Loan, 1941... .. | 4,000,000 |
| War Savings Certificates | 352,516 |
| Mauritius Loan, 1961 | 3,157,500 |
| TOTAL Rs. ... | 15,850,016 |

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

(Omitting Special Funds deposited in the Public Treasury):—

| LIABILITIES | | ASSETS | |
|--|----------------|--|----------------|
| | Rs. | | Rs. |
| Other Governments ... | 165,832 | Advances ... | 28,952,971 |
| Deposits ... | 2,094,165 | Cash Balances ... | |
| Joint Colonial Fund ... | 11,786,666 | etc. ... | 10,827,479 |
| Mauritius Development and Welfare Fund ... | 5,002,141 | Investments ... | 14,936,816 |
| Loan Funds Unexpended. | 37,516 | | 25,764,295 |
| Reserve Fund ... | 12,000,000 | Deduct balances of Special Funds etc. in the hands of the Accountant General ... | 11,706,298 |
| General Revenue Balance | 11,924,648 | | 14,057,997 |
| | | | |
| TOTAL ... | Rs. 43,010,968 | TOTAL ... | Rs. 43,010,968 |

DESCRIPTION OF THE MAIN HEADS OF TAXATION AND THEIR YIELD

| | 1948-49 | 1949-50 |
|--------------------------------------|------------|------------|
| | Rs. | Rs. |
| Customs :—Import Duties ... | 10,238,149 | 12,703,183 |
| Export Duties ... | 729,788 | 422,763 |
| Excise duty on rum ... | 3,406,746 | 3,684,238 |
| Tobacco Excise ... | 3,921,377 | 4,407,850 |
| Licences Duties ... | 3,116,537 | 3,470,092 |
| Poll Tax ... | 4,874,097 | 5,987,653 |
| Companies Tax ... | 5,112,873 | 6,811,498 |
| Excess Profits Tax ... | 105,545 | 364,971 |
| Tax on sweepstakes and lotteries ... | 572,147 | 561,090 |

CUSTOMS TARIFF

The schedule to the Customs Tariff Ordinance comprises three main sections: (i) Import Duties, (ii) Exemptions and (iii) Export Duties. Import duty is levied under 90 main items, and is calculated on an *ad valorem* or specific basis according to the nature of the article. Provision is made in a number of cases for the imposition of a preferential tariff on goods of Empire manufacture, but the admission of goods to preference is dependent on the production of certain supporting evidence as to Empire origin or content. In the absence of this information, the general tariff rate is charged. Item 40 imposes a general *ad valorem* duty of 12.5% on all goods not elsewhere specified or not specifically exempted.

The schedule of exemptions contains 44 items, and covers the majority of articles normally granted free importation into Empire countries.

Export duties are levied on sugar and molasses, and in addition there are small duties imposed on goods exported from bond, goods in transit, and goods reshipped after being landed from distressed vessels.

EXCISE DUTIES

Excise duties are levied on colonial spirits (rum), country liquor (local wine), tobacco, matches, denatured spirit (power and domestic), vinegar, tinctures, drugs and perfumed spirit. The revenue from the production of rum for local consumption has fallen considerably as a result of the Government policy of fixing the maximum quantity available for home consumption at 1,000,000 litres per annum, and there has been as a result, a considerable increase in the duty collected on local wines, the production of which has, so far, not been restricted.

STAMP DUTIES

Stamp duties are of three kinds:

Schedule A to the Stamps (Consolidation) Ordinance, 1926, specifies the instruments or writings which are subject to a duty in proportion to the size of the paper used. The tariff ranges from R. 0.25 cs. to Rs. 1.50 cs.

Schedule B specifies the instruments or writings which are subject to a fixed stamp duty. The amounts vary from R. 0.05 cs. to Rs. 15.00.

Schedule C species the instruments or writings which are subject to an *ad valorem* duty. These include Bills of Exchange, Promissory Notes, Policies of Insurance, Debentures. The duties are mainly on a sliding scale.

The stamp duties collected during the financial year 1949-50 amounted to Rs. 475,089.92 in respect of impressed paper, compared with Rs. 451,168.22 in 1948-49. The duties levied by means of adhesive stamps are included in Postal Revenue.

GRADUATED POLL TAX

The Graduated Poll Tax levied in Mauritius is in fact an income tax, and not a poll tax in the sense in which the term is used in certain African colonies.

In 1950 the rate of tax applicable to companies was raised from 35% to 37·5% of the net profit. The following schedule shows the tax payable by individuals at the various income levels:—

| INCOMES | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| <i>In excess of</i> | <i>But not exceeding</i> | <i>Tax payable</i> |
| 5,000 | 6,000 | 90 |
| 6,000 | 7,000 | 120 |
| 7,000 | 8,000 | 160 |
| 8,000 | 9,000 | 220 |
| 9,000 | 10,000 | 280 |
| 10,000 | 11,000 | 340 |
| 11,000 | 12,000 | 410 |
| 12,000 | 13,000 | 490 |
| 13,000 | 14,000 | 580 |
| 14,000 | 15,000 | 680 |
| 15,000 | 16,000 | 800 |
| 16,000 | 17,000 | 940 |
| 17,000 | 18,000 | 1,100 |
| 18,000 | 19,000 | 1,270 |
| 19,000 | 20,000 | 1,450 |
| 20,000 | 22,500 | 1,800 |
| 22,500 | 25,000 | 2,300 |
| 25,000 | 27,500 | 2,900 |
| 27,500 | 30,000 | 3,600 |
| 30,000 | 32,500 | 4,500 |
| 32,500 | 35,000 | 5,600 |
| 35,000 | 37,500 | 6,800 |
| 37,500 | 40,000 | 8,000 |
| 40,000 | 42,500 | 9,200 |
| 42,500 | 45,000 | 10,400 |
| 45,000 | 47,500 | 11,650 |
| 47,500 | 50,000 | 12,900 |

For incomes exceeding Rs. 50,000 but not exceeding Rs. 100,000, the tax payable is Rs. 12,900 plus 50% of the amount by which the income exceeds Rs. 50,000.

For incomes exceeding Rs. 100,000, the tax payable is Rs. 37,900 plus 60% of the amount by which the income exceeds Rs. 100,000.

Collections in the year 1949-50 amounted to Rs. 13,164,000, compared with Rs. 10,092,000 for 1948-49. Poll Tax will be abolished and replaced by Income Tax. The necessary legislation has already been enacted.

ESTATE DUTY

Although estate duty does not exist in Mauritius, death duty is payable at a rate dependent upon both the relationship to the deceased and the aggregate value of all property passing at death. This system combines the principles of legacy, succession and

estate duties, the two first duties being leviable according to the degree of relationship without aggregation of the whole estate and the latter on the aggregate estate irrespective of relationship.

The duty collected during the year 1950 amounted to Rs. 584,350.13 as compared with Rs. 986,760.23 in 1949.

Chapter IV—Currency and Banking

Notes and silver coins in circulation at the end of the last three financial years were as follows:—

| | | <i>30th June 1948</i> | <i>30th June 1949</i> | <i>30th June 1950</i> |
|--------------|-----|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| | | <i>Rs.</i> | <i>Rs.</i> | <i>Rs.</i> |
| Notes | ... | 28,703,625 | 29,549,625 | 33,121,625 |
| Coins | ... | 1,723,210 | 1,677,210 | 1,605,210 |
| TOTAL | ... | <u>30,426,835</u> | <u>31,226,835</u> | <u>34,726,835</u> |

The amount of the Note Security Fund calculated at the mean market price of the investments on the 30th June, 1950, stood at Rs. 35,677,329, that is 107.7% of the value of the notes in circulation.

The Coin Security Fund amounted to Rs. 170,947 at the 30th June, 1950, which added to the bullion value of the issued and unissued coins amounting to Rs. 3,769,285 gives a total of Rs. 3,940,232 against a face value of silver coins minted of Rs. 3,550,000.

BANKING

Three trading banks, one local and the other two overseas, operate in Mauritius. These are:—

- (a) The Mauritius Commercial Bank ;
- (b) The Mercantile Bank of India Ltd. ;
- (c) The Barclays Bank (Dominion, Colonial and Overseas).

Savings bank facilities are provided for by the Government Savings Bank and Barclays Bank. The present trading bank facilities are adequate for the needs of the island, but, apart from the Agricultural Bank and the Co-operative Credit movement, Mauritius is not well served by other financial institutions, more particularly those specializing in long term loans to individuals for such purposes as housing. Loans against mortgages are, of course, obtainable from private sources.

The Mauritius Commercial Bank was established in 1838. Its paid-up capital was increased in 1948 from Rs. 2,000,000 to Rs. 3,000,000, the latter sum being made of 15,000 shares of Rs.200 each. Shareholders are liable for a further sum of Rs. 200 per share. The total amount of deposits on the 31st December, 1949, was Rs. 36,040,435, and reserves stood at Rs. 3,290,000.

The Mercantile Bank of India, Ltd., took over the business of the Bank of Mauritius Ltd., on 31st May, 1916. The paid-up capital of the Bank at 31st December, 1949, was £1,050,000 and Reserve funds amounted to £1,200,000. Through its Head Office in London and its branches throughout the Far East the Mercantile Bank of India, Ltd., is able to offer very comprehensive banking facilities to the people of Mauritius.

Barclays Bank (Dominion, Colonial and Overseas) has a paid-up capital of £7,121,500 as at 30th September, 1949, and a Reserve Fund of £8,000,000 at the same date. The total deposits at the local branch of the Bank on 31st December, 1950, amounted to Rs. 16,528,788 on Current Account and Rs. 870,219 on Savings Bank Account.

This Bank, which is affiliated with Barclays Bank Ltd., was founded in 1838 and re-incorporated under its present name in 1925 when it amalgamated with the Anglo-Egyptian Bank Ltd., the Colonial Bank and the National Bank of South Africa, Ltd. A branch of the last named bank was established in Mauritius in December 1919. In February 1926, its business was taken over by Barclays Bank (Dominion, Colonial and Overseas) following the amalgamation already mentioned. A new building for their Port Louis branch, which will be the most modern in the Island, is still in course of construction.

The Bank acts as agents for Barclays Overseas Development Corporation Ltd.

Government Savings Bank—

An old-established Government Savings Bank has been in existence for over a century. The Central Office is at Port Louis, where the greater part of the business is transacted, but deposits and withdrawals can also be carried out at nine District Cashiers' Offices in Mauritius, and at Rodrigues. However, legislation has been enacted which will place the Government Savings Bank under the control of the Postmaster General as from the 1st January, 1951, with the title of the Post Office Savings Bank. Savings Bank business will then be transacted at most of the forty Post Offices of Mauritius as well as at Rodrigues.

The total number of depositors in the Government Savings Bank at 30th June, 1950, was 68,701, as compared with 66,820 at 30th June, 1949; and the balance to the credit of depositors at 30th June, 1950, was approximately Rs. 20,049,000. Interest is paid at the rate of $2\frac{1}{2}\%$ per annum.

The Mauritius Agricultural Bank

The Mauritius Agricultural Bank was established in 1936 and began its activities in January 1937. Of the Rs. 10,000,000 originally raised by Government to finance it, Rs. 276,000 has been refunded by the Bank which up to 31st December, 1950, had also contributed Rs. 830,400 to a Sinking Fund.

The Mauritius Economic Commission had recommended that the Bank's capital be increased and the scope of its activities extended to meet the needs of enterprises other than sugar. Legislation was passed to this end and also to authorize loans for housing purposes. The Bank is now governed by Ordinance No. 68 of 1950, in terms of which it is empowered (1) to raise funds from the public (a) by the issue of debentures to a maximum of Rs. 6,000,000, (b) by the issue of subscription debentures payable monthly or quarterly, and (c) by accepting savings deposits and fixed deposits for periods of twelve to thirty-six months; (2) to arrange long-term loans and bank overdrafts—this is in addition to the amount originally raised by Government and the Rs. 3,000,000 it was authorized to raise in 1949, by the issue of short-term bills.

One of the purposes for which the Bank was authorized to raise funds from the public was the encouragement of savings in the Colony. It is hoped that the wide range of investments offered will be sufficiently attractive.

At the end of the year the Bank had paid out Rs. 24,327,185 in loans.

In addition to the loans granted under the 1945 Hurricane Loan Ordinance the Bank was in 1949 entrusted with the management of the loans granted under the Rehabilitation of Factories and Rolling Stock Ordinance. The total amount outstanding on its books due by borrowers was on the 31st December, Rs. 37,624,087 of which Rs. 17,424,236 Agricultural Bank loans proper, Rs. 15,043,834 due by borrowers under the 1945 Hurricane Loan Ordinance and Rs. 5,156,017 due by borrowers under the Rehabilitation of Factories and Rolling Stock Ordinance.

The number of accounts at the end of the year, was 1,047.

The following is a summary of its Balance Sheet as at 31st December, 1950.

| LIABILITIES | | | ASSETS | | |
|------------------------------|--|-------------------|--------------------------|--|-------------------|
| | | Rs. | | | Rs. |
| Treasury | | 10,086,000 | Loans | | 17,424,236 |
| Debentures and | | 117,860 | Cash | | 608,600 |
| Sub. Debentures | | 4,000,000 | Investments | | 17,952 |
| Deposits | | 27,900 | Other Assets | | 165,348 |
| Short Term Bills | | 3,000,000 | Sinking Fund Contribu- | | |
| Internal A/cs and other lia- | | | tions | | 830,400 |
| bilities | | 125,528 | | | |
| Sinking Fund | | 830,400 | | | |
| Reserves and Pront and | | | | | |
| Loss A/c... .. | | 858,738 | | | |
| | | <u>19,046,536</u> | | | <u>19,046,536</u> |
| Funds administered on | | | | | |
| behalf of the Colonial | | | Hurricane Loan 1945 ... | | 15,043,834 |
| Government | | 20,199,851 | Rehabilitation Loans ... | | 5,156,017 |
| | | <u>39,246,387</u> | | | <u>39,246,387</u> |
| TOTAL | | | TOTAL | | |

The Bank is self-supporting and its running expenses are low. In 1950 there were 0.37% of the amount outstanding on its books, due to borrowers.

Chapter V—Commerce

The commerce of the Colony is almost wholly dependent on the sugar crop and the yield for the year is 456,000 metric tons, an increase of 40,000 tons over the figure for 1949. The export of high degree alcohol has decreased and only 4,396,466 litres were exported compared to 5,982,395 litres in 1949 and 5,232,929 litres in 1948. To assist the industry the export duty of 10 cents of a rupee per litre was abolished in August 1950.

The Colony depends on imports for the greater part of its needs. A small part only of the requirements of foodstuffs, namely meat, fruit and vegetables, is produced locally. Local industries produce tobacco, wine, matches, aboe fibre bags for sugar and salt.

The quantity of rice imported rose to 45,169 tons compared with 32,604 tons in 1949 and consequently the quantity of flour imported was reduced to 14,085 tons compared to 37,451 tons in 1949. Flour and frozen meat were imported from Australia, beef on the hoof from Madagascar and considerable quantities of food-stuffs from the United Kingdom and the Union of South Africa.

The United Kingdom continues to be the principal source of supply for manufactured goods such as textiles, wearing apparel, machinery, motor vehicles, hardware and electrical goods. Large quantities of cotton piece goods are received from India. During 1950 fertilizers were imported mainly from the United Kingdom, Chile, Belgium and France.

Some indication of the imported food requirements of the Colony may be given by the following figures of the quantities of cereals and pulses handled by the Government Granary during the year.

| <i>Commodity</i> | <i>Tons</i> |
|--|-----------------------|
| Rice | 46,930'50 |
| Flour | 10,313'25 |
| Split Peas | 1,658'50 |
| Lentils | 1,263'00 |
| Whole peas, beans, dhol and gram | 1,035'00 |
| | <hr/> 61,200'25 <hr/> |

In addition 1,073 tons of maize bran, maize, and concentrates were received from local producers at the Richelieu Maize Mill and stored at the Granary.

Chapter VI—Production

AGRICULTURE

The latest vital statistics show that the excess of births over deaths during the first eleven months of the year was about 15,000. This figure emphasizes the need for increased efficiency in agriculture, the mainstay of the economic welfare of the Colony. If the present standard of living is to be maintained, higher production is imperative. If it is to be raised, production will have to be greatly increased. For this purpose arrangements have been made for a Land Utilization Survey to be carried out to show the areas where further agricultural development work could be started.

Sugar

Weather conditions were not ideal for sugar production, but, fortunately, the island was not visited by any severe cyclone. The sugar crop amounted to about 456,000 tons, 40,000 tons more than the 1949 record crop. This is the fourth record crop in successive years. This increase is due mainly to new areas under cane, but the yield of sugar per acre also appears to have risen. The yield of canes in the field was higher than the previous year, but the sugar content was less. In spite of the large amount of cane which was handled, and a strike which closed the factories in the South of the Island for a few days, the crop was finished by the normal time.

The variety M.134/32 is still the mainstay of the industry, and in view of the long system of ratooning practised in the Colony, will remain so for some considerable time. The variety M.423/41 was released during the year and 168,840 canes were sold to estates and planters for propagation purposes. If it maintains its yield commercially, as it did experimentally, further record yields should result. Two further varieties have been under examination during the year: M.213/41 and E.1/37. There is a possibility that these two canes will be released for general planting during 1951.

Alcohol

At the end of 1949, there was no market for potable alcohol either in the United Kingdom or locally for use as a fuel for internal combustion engines. At the beginning of 1950, the warehouses were therefore full of alcohol, and distilleries had stocks of molasses which could not be used as there was no prospect of export. In February-March, however 1,000,000 litres were exported, and in June agreement was reached for the export of 6,000,000 litres to the United Kingdom during the period July 1950 to June 1951. Distillation only restarted in September.

An interesting development was the export of molasses to various destinations, including the United Kingdom and Pakistan. Should this trade develop, the question of the potash fertilizer requirement of the Colony will need to be carefully reviewed, as, on an average, one ton of molasses contains about 40 kgs. of potash as K_2O . Heretofore, molasses not used in the local distilleries had been returned to the soil.

Tobacco

The reduction of stocks during 1949, and the signing of a contract for the export of tobacco to the United Kingdom led to the increase in the number of permits for planting during the year.

The areas under cultivation amounted to 492 arpents of flue-cured tobacco and 192 arpents of air-cured, giving a total of 684 arpents, which were expected to yield a total crop of about 427,500 kilos. A large proportion of the land allotted to the flue-cured tobacco had to be grown in the so-called " New Varieties ", Bonanza, Jamaica Wrapper, White Mammoth, etc. Due to unfavourable weather conditions, the average yield of all varieties was much below expectation, resulting in a deficit of about 70,000 kilos with the " New Varieties " and of about 30,000 kilos with Amarello, flue and air cured.

The deliveries to manufacturers amounted to 410,000 kilos, an all-time record, and there are indications that the demands are increasing. In addition to this increased domestic market, quantities have been sold to Madagascar and the United Kingdom. 22,500 kilos of flue-cured Amarello and 7,500 kilos of air-cured Amarello were exported to Madagascar, and 38,500 kilos of flue-cured " New Varieties " and a little over 7,000 kilos of air-cured Amarello to the United Kingdom. The total deliveries of tobacco from the Warehouse amounted to over 485,000 kilos, and the gross receipts from growers during the same period to approximately 324,000 kilos, thus causing a reduction in the stock of 161,000 kilos. There is still some leaf to be received from the growers for the 1950 crop, but it is not expected to exceed 25,000 kilos.

Because of the reduction of stocks, allocations have been made for the 1951 crop to produce 450,000 kilos of leaf for the local market. The question of making further allocations for the export market is still under consideration. The proportion of flue-cured leaf to be provided from the " New Varieties " has also been reduced, because of the disappointing results obtained with them this year.

Aloe Fibre

This industry has progressed steadily during the year. More fibre factories worked during the year, 35 factories providing 1,173 tons of Mauritius hemp and 17 tons of sisal to the Government Sack Factory, leaving an approximate balance of 300-400 tons for export. The main reasons for the greater quantity of fibre produced are probably the very remunerative prices now paid for this commodity and the virtual destruction of large areas of Condé (*Cordia macrostachya*) by means of *Schematiza cordiae* Barb, thus rendering the exploitation of wild growth much easier. The first

plantations made on the double row system, advocated by Mr. G. W. Locke, O.B.E. have been harvested after twenty-eight months' growth, and have yielded nearly 30 tons of leaves per acre. The yield of fibre from these leaves was not, however, determined. This is a very encouraging result, and if it can be taken as typical, an area of about 9,000 acres would be sufficient to supply enough fibre to make bags for the whole of the Mauritius sugar crop.

The Government Sack Factory worked at full capacity throughout the year during which it converted 1,227 tons of Mauritius hemp and 32 tons of sisal into 1,185,000 bags each of 80 kilos capacity, 49,573 yards of filter press cloth for use in sugar factories and 34,500 kgs. of yarn for rope and string manufacture, as compared with 977,750 bags, 63,360 yards of filter press cloth and 42,600 kgs. of yarn produced in 1949.

Trial shipments of sugar in bulk were made during the sugar crop season; as a result it is possible that part of next year's crop may be shipped in this way, thus reducing the total number of bags required by the sugar industry.

Owing to the increased fibre production, the question of enlarging the Government Sack Factory to enable it to double its present output was considered. The Manager went to the United Kingdom to investigate the question of new machinery. Extra land adjoining the present premises has been purchased to enable the extensions to be carried out in the most economical manner. As soon as all details have been arranged, orders will be placed for the new machinery and work will be started on the preparation of the site. Development and Welfare funds will provide for these extensions.

The new Robey automatic decorticator was received and tried. The recovery of fibre from leaves of *Furcraea* was approximately 2.2%, but many of the fibre producers considered the losses unduly high. The horse-power of the engine used for the tests was too low, and thus no reliable estimate of the capacity of the machine could be made. Further tests are under consideration. The machine can also decorticate sisal fibre, the recovery being 3% fibre. With *Sanseveria*, a large amount of pulp was left in the fibre, so that retting would be necessary, and with New Zealand hemp, the machine could not decorticate the leaves at all.

A fibre experimental station has been started at Richelieu, where it is intended to plant up to 40 or 50 acres of aloë under experimental conditions. Ten acres have so far been planted, comprising four different experiments.

Food Production

When rice and wheaten flour were scarce, there was a good market for maize-rice as human food. When, however, the former commodities became available in larger quantities, the maize-rice produced by the Government Maize Mill found little favour with the public. It was therefore decided to close down the Maize Mill which is now kept on a care and maintenance basis ready to resume its activity in case of emergency. As a result of the closing down of the mill, the minimum guaranteed price of Rs. 300 per ton at 15% moisture content for maize was discontinued as from the 1st July. The manufacture of animal feeding stuff is however still being continued.

11,500 arpents of foodstuffs were under cultivation during the year, mainly maize (6,000 arpents), groundnuts and Irish potatoes.

The component parts of the Mechanical Agricultural Unit have now reached the Colony and it is expected that the Unit will start operation early in 1951.

The Board has been carrying out an intensive agricultural educational drive along two main lines: —

- (a) Practical demonstration and experimental work in the growers' own fields on (i) improved method of planting, (ii) rational use of fertilizers, (iii) control of pests and diseases, (iv) selection and storage of planting material, (v) control of soil erosion.
- (b) Late afternoon meetings of growers at which the topics mentioned at (a) are fully discussed and illustrated by photographs and demonstration material.

In general growers show very keen interest for both systems of education and often these are conducted at their own request.

The Board has also started experimental growing of foodcrops and vegetables at Plaine Lauzun on a soil type which is found to a large extent in certain regions in the Colony and which was so far considered uncultivable. Satisfactory crops of maize, tomatoes, beans, potatoes and other crops have been raised on that soil type.

Tea

The Tea Committee met on a number of occasions during the year. The decision previously taken by the Executive Council to the effect that the four smaller factories would have to be modernized within a given time was confirmed by the Committee. Up to the

present, plans for three new factories have been approved and work has begun on one of them. The plans for a fourth factory are still under consideration. The only modern factory—that at Bois Chéri—has been enlarged by two more stories, these to be used as withering lofts.

Permits for the planting of tea, amounting to approximately 675 arpents, have been issued during the year, but the lack of good jat seed is a limiting factor. Seed was imported during 1949 from Malaya, but the last order which should have arrived during 1950 had to be cancelled on account of the outbreak of Blister Blight in that territory. The special plantations for seed production have not yet come into bearing, and will not do so for some considerable time yet. A certain amount of seed from local plantations is available, and trials are being made with vegetative reproduction.

There was an increase in production, the yield being approximately 750,000 lb of made tea. Of this, 45,000 lb have been exported, mainly to the United Kingdom, the United States of America and South Africa. Imports of tea during the year have increased to 85,000 lb, almost all from Ceylon.

The Tea Committee also discussed the question of instituting a Tea Propaganda Campaign, with the object of increasing the domestic consumption of tea, and of forming a tea pool for the marketing of Mauritius teas both locally and abroad. Little progress has been made with either of these projects. Local consumption, however, appears to have increased from about 550,000 lb per annum for the period 1945–47 (1.26 lb per head per year) to about 700,000 lb per year for the period 1948–50 (1.60 lb per head per year).

Entomology

The fight against the major insect pests of sugarcane has continued, but so far without any spectacular effect. The most recently imported parasites of both *Clemora Smithi* Arrow and of the various sugarcane borers which were introduced during 1949 have not yet had time to show whether they will be efficient in helping to control these two pests, which do much damage annually to the sugar crop.

Further lines of attack against *Clemora Smithi* Arrow have been initiated, but are at present in the early stages. Gammexane, applied to the soil before the flying stage of the beetle begins, is worthy of further investigation. The large toad, *Bufo marinus* (L) has been imported again and released in localities which are thought to be suitable for its propagation.

A very different story can be told, however, about the efforts to control Herbe Condé (*Cordia macrostachya*). The leaf-eating insect *Schematiza cordiae* Barb., released in 1948, has not only established itself in the field, but has already virtually destroyed this weed over large areas. It is hoped that during its active season in the first part of 1951, further areas will be cleared. As a result of the beneficial effect of this insect, certain areas containing wild growth of *Furcraea gigantea* (Mauritius hemp) have been more easily exploited.

The seed-eating insect, *Eurytoma* sp., has definitely established itself in the fields near the Central Experimental Station, Réduit, and large numbers have been collected since its active season was resumed and released in other parts of the island. The percentage of seeds attacked at Réduit is high, and there seems to be little doubt that it will be a valuable aid in the suppression of Herbe Condé.

Experiments have also been started to try to control the insect pests of pigeon pea (*ajanus cajan*) by means of spraying with wettable D.D.T. This plant grows well, but in some seasons practically no undamaged seed is obtained, due to the attacks of a large number of different kinds of insects. The work is continuing.

Animal Husbandry

A census of animals in the Colony was taken in April 1950 as part of the World Agricultural Census. The figures show that there has been an increase in the number of dairy cows, but a decrease in the number of herd and draught oxen. This indicates that the control measures exercised in connection with the slaughtering of animals of the milk breed is having a beneficial effect. Little progress can, however, be reported about the improvement of the yield of each cow. The high cost and scarcity of concentrated feeding stuffs is a serious limiting factor, so that the cows of the "one-cow man" are fed almost entirely on green fodder, cane tops during crop time, and on grass, acacia and twigs of trees at other times; sometimes even this food is of inferior quality.

Many of the pure-bred bulls imported from South Africa some six years ago have now been slaughtered, being no longer useful for reproductive purposes, and young locally bred pure and $\frac{3}{4}$ -bred Friesian bulls are being used to replace them. In addition, an artificial insemination campaign has been in operation through-

out the year in the south of the Island, but this has not achieved the success which had been hoped, due to the unwillingness of the Indo-Mauritian cow-keeper to use this method of reproduction. More are becoming interested however. It is worthy of note that the conception rate, by this method, is high, about 75%. The question of starting a similar campaign in the Port Louis district, where some 700 cows are quartered, is under consideration.

The stock breeding centre at Palmar on the east coast of the Island has been considerably extended. The sheep which were at Flat Island were not thriving particularly well there, and they have now been transferred to this station. In addition, twelve Dorsian sheep—ten ewes and two rams—have been imported from South Africa, and eight Anglo-Nubian goats—six does and two bucks—from England, all of which are now at Palmar. Young heifers from the Government Dairy, about twenty in all, plus two young bulls, are also now kept there, and are run out on pasture. The heifers will be sent back to the Dairy when they are five or six months in calf. These young dairy animals are making good progress, and it is hoped that their milk yields will improve accordingly. Heat tolerance tests were conducted with these animals to determine what percentage of Friesian blood is best suited to the warm coastal regions. Six heifers and one bull of the Ongole breed have been received from India, and in due course these animals will be transferred to Palmar. The object of this introduction is to improve the local herd animals, both for draught and beef purposes.

The Government Dairy at Curepipe continued to present some unusual problems, particularly with respect to contagious abortion and infertility. There has been another outbreak of abortion, affecting about 30% of the cows in calf, and this in spite of the fact that all high reactors had been segregated. One reason for infertility was found to be ovarian cysts, but the enucleation of these has not completely solved the problem. As a result of these troubles, the total milk yield of the Dairy has not increased to the extent that had been expected, but the yield of each cow has been maintained at about nine litres per day, a considerable increase on what it was some two or three years ago.

The pilot hay scheme was not started, but funds have now been made available in the Development and Welfare Estimates, and a modest start will be made early in 1951, as the necessary equipment will have to be imported from abroad.

Land Settlement

In 1947 an experienced Land Settlement Officer was appointed under a Colonial Development and Welfare Scheme and, as a result of investigations an application was submitted in 1949 for a grant of £555,750 from the Colony's allocation under the Colonial Development and Welfare vote to finance a full scale land settlement scheme. It was subsequently considered, however, that having regard to experience of land settlement schemes in other territories, the almost invariable tendency of such schemes to cost much more than was originally estimated and to yield less satisfactory results than were hoped, the novelty of organized land settlement schemes, so far as Mauritius was concerned, it would be inappropriate to embark upon anything in the nature of a long range scheme until a pilot scheme had been introduced and there was some assurance that it was going to work out satisfactorily. This view was accepted and the Land Settlement Officer was instructed to draw up a pilot scheme. This scheme was considered and its adoption recommended at a meeting of the Development Authority held in May,. It has now been approved by the Secretary of State and preliminary work is going ahead. The scheme is designed to cover 618 acres and expenditure for a three-year period is estimated at £48,375.

It is proposed to establish tenants on 64 holdings let under leasehold tenure for a period of seven years. Forty holdings are to be equipped with dwellings, outbuildings, etc., and the remaining twenty-four bareland holdings. These holdings are to be managed in order to be readily adaptable to changing circumstances. In addition to these holdings, 100 acres are to be set aside for allotments for food crops and 78 acres for tree planting. Upon the success of this pilot scheme will depend the decision to proceed with the larger scheme mentioned above.

FISHERIES

The catch in local waters compares well with the average of the last five years. The total catch of all controlled landing stations has been as follows:—

| | | | kgs. |
|------|-----|-----|-----------|
| 1946 | ... | ... | 1,529,274 |
| 1947 | ... | ... | 1,455,335 |
| 1948 | ... | ... | 1,613,013 |
| 1949 | ... | ... | 1,398,817 |
| 1950 | ... | ... | 1,483,444 |

The different modes of fishing have contributed to the total in the following proportions:—

| | | | % |
|-------------------|-----|-----|------|
| Nets | ... | ... | 27·9 |
| Basket traps | ... | ... | 40·8 |
| Lines | ... | ... | 10·8 |
| Octopus (Harpoon) | ... | ... | 18·9 |
| Lobster pots | ... | ... | 1·6 |

It had been hoped to reduce the use of nets in the lagoons as early as possible so as to build up the stock of fish for periods of emergency. In view of the obvious usefulness of the nets this course could only be adopted when supplies from other sources were secured, the amount of fish from local waters being inadequate for the needs of a growing population.

Much hope was, therefore, placed in the deep sea fishing enterprise of the Indian Ocean Trading Company. Unfortunately, adjustments in the refrigeration plant, and the need to modify the ventilation of part of the engine room have caused many weeks of delay at the beginning of the year. Fishing could only be resumed in winter when conditions were most unfavourable and the catch was poor. The last quarter of the year during which fishing is normally at its best was also marked by unusual weather and the quantities of fish brought home by the Company's ship, the *S.S. Silverlord*, have not been adequate. However, the experience acquired in modes of fishing and prospection of the grounds will, it is hoped, lead to stabilization of the industry in the future.

Funds were made available in the Development and Welfare Estimates for the encouragement of deep sea fishing and the improvement of marketing conditions with a view to freeing the fishing community from its dependence on the middleman.

FORESTRY

The local production of 583/700 cubic feet of timber for the year 1950 represents an increase of some 130,000 cubic feet from Crown Forest Lands over that for the preceding year and is some 70,000 cubic feet above the average for the previous ten-years. It reflects (i) the results of the more intensive exploitation of dead and fallen timber and (ii) the increase in the areas cleared and replanted. In regard to the latter the selective exploitation during the emergency period 1942-1947 of the larger trees in the more accessible forests of the Colony has resulted in the depletion of the growing stock to a point at which the retention of the remnants now constitutes an uneconomic investment, so that where such areas

lie adjacent to, or are included within, large blocks of valueless scrub forest, they are being included in the annual regeneration programmes which provide, as far as possible, for the creation of homogeneous blocks of new plantations.

The volume of timber imports for the year under review at 508,100 cubic feet shows an increase of approximately 30,000 cubic feet over imports for 1949, but a decline of some Rs. 19,000—in estimated cost. It is believed that, but for lack of adequate shipping facilities from certain exporting countries, the imports of timber during the year would have been appreciably higher.

The marked expansion during 1950 in the activities of the building trade in the Colony, resulted in a greatly increased demand for timber of all types, but the lack of sound statistical means of assessing actual demands and consumption makes it virtually impossible to analyse accurately the true relationships between demand and actual consumption. It is almost certain that demands upon Government owned stocks of timber are higher than the actual requirements of individual purchasers who attempt to anticipate the effects of the arrangements under which available supplies are rationed.

The production of timber and minor forest produce, generally from Crown (Forest) and other Crown Lands, is a departmental responsibility involving the direct employment of a very considerable labour force on piece work rates, and the engagement, under contract, of three privately owned sawmills for the conversion of the produce. Timber deriving from lease “*Pas Géométrique*” Lands is exploited by the lessees of such lands, and that from privately owned forested lands by the owners. All forest produce deriving from the above sources is consumed in the Colony.

All silvicultural operations in Crown Forests are carried out by daily paid labour employed under the direct supervision of Forest Officers.

Timber Production

The following statement gives the estimated total value of timber which became available for use during the year under review:—

| | | |
|--|--------|--------------------------------|
| (a) Production from Crown Forests | ... | 383,700 cubic feet |
| (b) Production from “ <i>Pas Géométriques</i> ” lands and privately owned forests | ... | 200,000 cubic feet (estimated) |
| (c) Imports | | 508,100 cubic feet |
| TOTAL | | <u>1,091,800</u> .. |

Production of fuel and charcoal from Crown Forest Lands was as follows:—

| | | | | | |
|--------------|-----|-----|----------------------------|---|------------------------|
| (a) Fuel | ... | ... | 17,113 Cordes of 80 cft | = | 1,369,040 stacked cft. |
| (b) Charcoal | ... | ... | 13,796 bags each of 60 lbs | = | 827,760 lbs. |

Labour Supply

The increasing representation of Indo-Mauritian workers amongst the ranks of Sawyers and Woodcutters reported last year has continued. In actual numbers of such labourers employed by the Department, the Indo-Mauritians now exceed the Creoles. The piece-work rates paid for sawing and woodcutting appear to be reasonable and adequate, and in spite of the need for such labour to work regularly during the often sustained periods of inclement weather at the higher elevations there was no dearth of candidates for employment. In the purely silvicultural operations of the Department, however, the labour force is predominantly Indo-Mauritian; the Indo-Mauritian displays a special aptitude for this type of work. During the year the expanding activities of the Department were not hampered by shortages of labour during the 'crop season': steady and regular, rather than seasonally more lucrative employment would appear to attract labourers to forestry operations.

Forest Policy

A "White Paper on Crown Forest Lands (Land Utilization) and Forestry" was laid on the table of the Legislative Council on 17th October.

Cyclones

No major cyclones occurred during the year. The strong winds attendant upon cyclones, even those traversing courses often at considerable distances from the Colony, affect young crops still in a "sappy" immature condition and result in a high percentage of plants being bent to the ground. It is not unusual for crops up to five years of age to be thus affected. These young trees have to be re-erected and tied to substantial stakes sunk into the ground alongside them. As a rule quite rapid recovery takes place and there is no marked check upon growth: the faster growing Eucalyptus are, of course, more severely affected than other species. The capricious behaviour of these winds, now blowing from one direction, now from another, causes young plants to bend to all quarters of the compass and their stems at ground level to act as a "punch" which levers the earth away from the stem and creates

a cavity about it, while at the same time imposing a severe strain upon the tender root systems. The "delayed-action" death of Pine crops of all ages, after major cyclones, is thought to result from this enforced straining of the root systems.

Protection

The "National Reserves" comprising some 5,000 acres of good quality Indigenous High Forest set aside for permanent preservation continued to receive attention. The sample plots laid down in 1949 to investigate the possibility of controlling the growth and proliferation of exotics have yielded promising results and appear to indicate that such control is possible.

The egg parasite, *Anaphoides nitens gir*, of the Eucalyptus pest *Gonipterus scutellatus* appear to have established control over the pest. No serious damage was reported during the year.

It was not possible to re-open the investigation into the local life history of *Phoracantha semipunctata* F which rapidly attacks and severely damages the timber of certain Eucalyptus. This was started in 1948 by an Entomologist of the Department of Agriculture whose services were subsequently withdrawn to meet other and more pressings needs.

Management

Detailed plans for the management of the Crown Forest Estate have yet to be drawn up. For the preparation of the "White Paper" referred to above, however, the preliminary examination and classification of Crown Lands into suitable categories for land use has been completed and will serve as the basis upon which the future Working Plan will be prepared.

Food Production

In co-operation with the Food Production Board, agricultural crops are raised in forestry plantations under the well-known "Taungya" system, particularly at lower elevations. Heavy damage by deer and monkeys severely restricts the application of this system to forests at the higher elevations.

Shade over River Reserves

The "White Paper" already mentioned recommended the setting aside of some 6,185 acres of Crown Forest Land, at the higher and wetter elevations, for the extension of tea cultivation. Up to the close of 1950, two experimental plantations each of some 10 acres, had been started in Crown Lands—Parc-aux-Cerfs and Wooton.

Silviculture

607 Acres of new plantations were made during the year, the species used being *Araucaria Cunninghamii*; *Agathis robusta*; *Pinus taeda*. *P. caribaea*; *Juniperus Bedfordiana*; *Eucalyptus robusta*, *E. tereticornis*, *E. citriodora*; *E. kirtoniana*; *Tristania conferta*; *Cinnamomum Camphore*; *Swietenia mahogani*; *Albizia lebbek*; *Tabebuia pallida* and *Vitex glabrata*. With the help of Development and Welfare funds made available towards the close of the year, nurseries have been further improved and expanded, and greatly increased seedling stock is likely to be available for 1951. Apart from the creation of new plantations, it was found possible during the year, to give systematic cultural treatment to some 456 acres of 'older' plantations from 4-10 years of age. In most of these cultural operations the disposal, by sale, of undergrowth and stems removed in the course of cleanings and thinnings respectively, offset the cost of the operations themselves.

INDUSTRY

The centralization and modernization of the sugar factories has proceeded steadily during the period under review. One more factory was closed (Sans Souci Sugar Estate), bringing the number, which handled the biggest crop on record, down to twenty-seven.

In addition to these sugar factories—and to the average Mauritian the word "factory" automatically implies sugar factory—there are five tea, thirty-five aloe-fibre, twelve wine, two oil and soap, two cigarette and two match factories. There are also twenty-three sawmills.

The total number of registered factories in the colony up to the 31st December was 221. The remaining ones include biscuit, butter and ice factories and the Government Sack Factory. The number also comprises a few distilleries, tanneries, printing establishments, aerated beverage factories, mechanical and electrical workshops and garages.

There are also two iron foundries and a small shipbuilding and repair yard. The loading and unloading of ships in the harbour is carried out speedily and efficiently by two-docks-operating companies,

Stoppages

Seven stoppages occurred in 1950, of which one was connected with the sugar industry (affecting thirteen estates), three with public services and one each, in the engineering, docks and match industries.

The most important stoppage began in the sugar industry on the 11th September. By the 22nd September thirteen sugar estates were involved. The strike, which was directed by the Engineering and Technical Workers Union, was due to a deadlock reached at the Conciliation Board meeting between the Union and the Sugar Producers' Association. The Union had demanded better wages, on the ground that the industry had been granted an increase in the price of sugar. After the Union had succeeded in causing either complete or partial stoppages in ten estates in the South, it turned its attention to the districts of Flacq and Rivière du Rempart. At this stage the intervention of the Labour Department was sought and following negotiations, it was agreed by the Union that an immediate resumption should be ordered and the dispute referred to Arbitration. Consequences of the strike included several prosecutions for breach of peace and unlawful picketing.

Another stoppage occurred at the New Mauritius and Albion Docks following the refusal of certain dockers to handle 100 kilog bags of sugar, on the ground that they were too heavy. Their action however was not sanctioned by the Union and after two days the strikers resumed work agreeing to clear all outstanding 100 kilog bags. The Docks on their part requested Sugar Estates not to load further 100 kilog bag consignments for the time being.

The other stoppages included, one lightning strike at the Mental Hospital, one one-day stoppage at the Government Printing Department and a three-day stoppage at the Electricity and Telephones Department. This last stoppage was unfortunately accompanied by acts of sabotage, the authors of which could not be traced.

The small number of trade disputes and stoppages of work during the year reflects creditably on the efforts of all concerned to preserve and to improve industrial relations throughout the Colony. An increase in the number of minor differences was reported but settlements were promoted either informally or by established routine procedure.

CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES

New registrations totalled 22 and were as follows:—

- 16 Co-operative Credit Societies of Unlimited Liability;
- 1 Co-operative Stores Society Limited;
- 3 Co-operative Thrift and Savings Societies Limited ;
- 1 Co-operative Housing Society Limited;
- 1 Federation of Co-operative Credit Societies.

Credit Societies

(a) *Unlimited Liability.* Two societies were dissolved during the year. At the end of 1950, the number of Credit Societies of the unlimited liability type stood at 129 of which 109 were in Mauritius and 20 in Rodrigues with a membership of 6,200 and 370 respectively. On the whole, there has been a marked increase in membership and a general progress in the activities of Societies.

(b) *Limited Liability.* As in the previous year the Credit Societies of Limited Liability comprised two Fishermen Societies. One of them is in Mauritius, in the district of Grand Port at Bambous Virieux, and the other is in Rodrigues.

Government Finance

At the end of December,—excepting 20 societies in Rodrigues, which held Government advances aggregating Rs. 10,310—only five societies in Mauritius, engaged in cultivation other than sugarcane, retained such advances amounting to Rs. 28,220. All the remaining societies are financed by the Mauritius Co-operative Central Bank.

Interest

The rate of interest on loans from the Central Bank to its member societies was 5%. The rate charged by the societies to their members varied from 6 to 10 per cent and was, on an average, 7% in Mauritius and 9.57% in Rodrigues.

Thrift and Savings Societies

By the end of December, the number of Thrift and Savings Co-operative Societies in operation was 39, all situated in rural districts. The total amount deposited by them with the Central Bank at the close of the period under report stood at Rs. 89,062. In these Societies members deposit small savings which can be withdrawn for specific purposes. Regular savings are encouraged.

The encouragement of thrift among small people who are not strong-minded enough to practise it individually, is not easy. These societies should not therefore be judged solely by their financial transactions. Their members are getting their first lesson in thrift and their first experience of joint action on co-operative lines.

Marketing Societies

The marketing activities in connection with sugarcane and leaf tobacco are arranged through the Co-operative Credit Societies.

There is only one Marketing Society proper, viz., the Crève Cocur Ginger Marketing Society Limited, in the district of Pamplemousses. After more than two years of effort it has not yet overcome all its difficulties. However, it transacted a considerable amount of business during the year, though somewhat falteringly. The export price of ginger, as a result of the activities of this society, has been raised from Rs. 6-10 to Rs. 20 per hundred kilograms.

During the year much has been done to organize the sale of milk on co-operative lines at La Flora, in the district of Savanne, but without any great success.

Central Finance

The Mauritius Co-operative Central Bank Limited was registered on the 8th October, 1948. It has now 110 member societies and an owned capital of Rs. 49,714 made up of paid-up shares amounting to Rs. 38,461 and a Reserve Fund of Rs. 11,072. The deposits it held as at 31st December, 1950, amounted to Rs. 176,240. It is, for the time being, largely financed by Barclays Bank (D.C. & O.). As it builds up its own working capital, it will, to a fuller extent, become free from outside loans.

The Secretary of the Mauritius Co-operative Central Bank Limited, who is also a duly commissioned Sworn Broker, sells the sugar crop of member societies. Twenty-five per cent of the brokerage, payable by the Mauritius Sugar Syndicate on the sale of the sugar of member societies by the Secretary-Broker, goes towards making up the Capital of the Bank.

Following arrangements made, whereby Co-operative Credit Societies purchase their chemical fertilizers through the agency of this institution, a discount of Rs. 6,008 was received during the year under review.

The sum the Co-operative Central Bank lent to its member societies during the period 1st January to 31st December, 1950, for sugarcane, tea, tobacco and vegetable crops amounted to Rs. 2,361,929. The Barclays Bank (D.C. & O.) overdraft at 31st December, 1950, stood at Rs. 610,198.

Consumer Societies

By the end of December 1949, the number of registered stores was 73 of which 63 were in active operation. Only one store was registered during the year whilst six were taken off the Register and five others dissolved. Thus, at the end of the year, the number of stores on the Register was 63 of which 60 were in operation.

Legislation authorizing them to sell local wine, imported alcoholic beverages and rum, on payment of a nominal licence fee of one rupee per quarter, was passed in November 1950.

The turn-over for the year was over Rs. 3,000,000 and the stores had 7,537 members. Now that these stores are selling the various forms of potable alcohol an increase in membership is anticipated with a consequent increase in the yearly turn-over.

Co-operative Wholesale

A Co-operative Wholesale Society Limited, with Co-operative Stores as its members, was registered on the 4th October, 1949. It started operations on the 1st August, 1950. By the end of December 1940, it comprised 56 member societies, and it had an owned capital (paid-up shares) of Rs. 6,050. It is, for the time being, financed by the Barclays Bank (D.C. & O.) to the extent of a floating overdraft up to a maximum of Rs. 150,000 at 4½ per cent. The overdraft at 31st October, 1950, stood at Rs. 134,393. Its sales for the period 1st August to 31st December, 1950, totalled Rs. 903,200.

Co-operative Housing Society Ltd.

A Co-operative Housing Society under the name and style of the Taj Mahal Co-operative Housing Society Ltd. in the district of Savanne was registered on the 21st June, 1950. Its main feature is to provide suitable concrete dwelling houses for its members. To qualify for membership a member must own the land on which he wishes his house to be built, and such land must be free from any mortgage or other form of debt. To implement its objects the

Society raises funds from share subscriptions, deposits from members and loans from other sources. The construction is undertaken by the Society and the houses are constructed in accordance with plans approved by the Society.

Government has approved of a loan of Rs. 125,000 being made to the Society. The preliminary steps taken in connection with preparation of plans, estimates, etc. are nearing completion. It is expected to start building operations before the end of the first quarter of the year 1951.

The Taj Mahal Co-operative Housing Society is really a society of the Credit type, distinguished only by the object of the loan and the term and the security on which it is granted. The object of the Society will be served when every member has been provided with a house and all the loans have been recovered. It may then be dissolved.

Co-operative Federation

A Federation of Co-operative Credit Societies was registered on the 16th August, 1950. Its main object is to undertake representation and development of agricultural and educational needs of members. It is non-political and undenominational in character.

Up to 31st December, 1950, the number of Co-operative Credit Societies affiliated to it was 83. It has Share Capital and each affiliated Society must hold one share of Rs. 100. The affiliated Society need not pay any money towards that share. The entire sum of Rs. 100 is its reserve liability on account of that share.

To meet its expenses, the Federation is authorised to levy a contribution:—

- (a) at a rate not less than five cents on every ton of sugarcane produced by the members of any affiliated Society; and
- (b) at a rate not exceeding 25 cents on every 100 rupees of loans issued in the preceding co-operative year to the members of any society not cultivating sugarcane.

It is estimated that the funds so raised in respect of the year 1951 will amount to Rs. 10,500.

Educational Propaganda

The policy in force relative to training of staff remained unchanged. Co-operative publications, other books and office requisites were indented for, and a sum of Rs. 946 was thus expended during the year. The Co-operative library has been

opened at the office of the Department of Co-operation. A further provision for Rs. 1,000 to meet the cost of further publications, books and office requisites has again been made in the Estimates for the financial year 1950-51.

A scheme for giving courses of instruction to secretaries in all districts has been set up. A start will be made in this direction at the beginning of next year.

Miscellaneous

His Excellency the Governor spent two afternoons in February and one afternoon in April, visiting various units of the Co-operative movement.

The assurance of the continuance of the active and sympathetic support of Government, which His Excellency was pleased to give to the members of these Societies, has greatly encouraged the people and is producing an excellent effect upon the Co-operative movement.

Chapter VII—Social Services

EDUCATION

In the course of the year the broad outline of a plan of building development for primary education was approved by Government. Smaller rural schools, to the number of seven or eight a year, and larger rural schools, in a much smaller proportion, are to be established, where they are most needed, during the remaining years of the Ten-Year Development and Welfare Plan which ends in 1956. Provision has also been made for the building of teachers' quarters in rural areas, for the expansion of existing schools and for the building of a further two Handicraft and Domestic Science Centres.

To back up this programme of school building the Teachers' Training College is to be provided with additional accommodation on the existing site at Beau Bassin, the scheme for a Residential Training College at Côte d'Or now being officially abandoned.

The main developments in the secondary field are (a) the purchase of a fine site for the Girls' Government Secondary School which will open in January 1951 in temporary quarters in the grounds, (b) the approval by Government of a comprehensive system of grant to approved secondary schools which is at present

in the birth-throes of effective application and (a) the Establishment of Higher School Certificate courses in Arts and Science at the Royal College School, Port Louis.

The youth organisation has established a new camping centre at Cap Malheureux for club-camping and conferences and plans have been approved to cater in 1951 for a fifty per cent increase in the number of primary school children going to the annual seaside camps at Cannoniers Point.

The dependency of Rodrigues has received considerable attention during the year in the following ways:—

- (a) an improved scheme for agricultural apprentices ;
- (b) the creation of two annual primary school scholarships to follow a course of secondary education in Mauritius ;
- (c) a visit by the Youth Organizer to help organize camps for the already flourishing youth clubs ;
- (d) arrangements for the removal of the Government primary school from Port Mathurin to a more spacious site at Bay Lascars.

Further and adult education is to be provided for in 1951 in form of (a) practical classes in physics, chemistry and biology for candidates reading for external Intermediate B.Sc., the first medical examination and local pharmacy examinations and (b) classes for persons over twenty years of age in art and handicrafts.

Primary Education

During the course of the year the number of children on roll in the primary schools has increased by 4,357 from 50,559 in 1949 to 54,916 in 1950, and the attendance has risen by 3,850 from 37,431 in 1949 to 41,281 in 1950. This increase in roll and attendance is due principally to three factors—continuous increase of population, better health, due especially to almost complete absence now of malarial fever, and provision of free milk which induces improved attendance. To meet the demands 75 relief teachers have been taken into the schools in addition to the 80 trained men and women from the Training College. There are now a total of 1,525 teachers, making a ratio of one teacher to every 35 children. On the accommodation side, two new schools were opened providing places for 325 children and early in 1951 three more are due to open with places for a further 475 children.

In connection with the Development and Welfare 10-year plan, there are, in addition, four larger rural schools being built to rehouse, in expanded accommodation, existing schools which are particularly badly housed and overcrowded, and eight additional smaller schools for 100 to 250 pupils which are being sited in rural areas to relieve pressure on the existing schools in the district and to reduce the walking distance for the younger children.

The curriculum of the primary schools is gradually becoming less bookish. The two Handicraft and Domestic Science Centres are doing good work in this direction and more will be possible with the building of two further centres provided for under the Development and Welfare plan. Two men are at present receiving a two-year training course in England specialising in the teaching of handicrafts, a third is going in 1951 on a Development and Welfare scholarship; one woman is taking a full three-year domestic science course. Physical training personnel are being similarly obtained by sending Mauritians to the United Kingdom for courses of instruction.

Teaching of Indian Languages

The teaching of oriental languages has been reorganized during the year and following on examination of over 400 candidates, nearly one hundred were selected for a course of thirty lectures in method and these will shortly augment the existing fifty teachers. Pupils are now to be taught in five grades and lessons take place either before or after school hours.

Secondary Education

Applications for admission to the two Boys' Government Schools and the nine approved (recognized and aided) secondary schools—two for boys, five for girls and two mixed—are always in excess of vacancies. A part of the overflow gains admission to one of a number of private schools, a few of which provide instruction of a fair standard but have few facilities for games and other educational activities. Others study with private tutors and the remainder do what they can to find employment.

Government Schools

In the Government secondary schools there is accommodation for 350 boys at the Royal College and 230 boys at the Royal College School. The "School" at Port Louis is now entirely independent of the "College" at Curepipe and has this year made provision

for Higher School Certificate courses in Arts and Science. Pressure for admission at both schools is such that expanded accommodation, in one form or another, is becoming a matter of great urgency.

An excellent site for the Girls' Government Secondary School has now been obtained in a central region of the island and the school is to be opened in January 1951. A large house, included in the grounds will provide adequate temporary quarters until the permanent building for some 350 children, is erected under the Colonial Development and Welfare ten-year plan. The curriculum will include science subjects, physical training, domestic science, handwork, civics and extra curricula activities such as dramatics, camping, photography and debate.

Approved (Grant-Aided) Secondary Schools

Government has recently approved a more comprehensive system of grant to those approved secondary schools which can satisfy certain minimum conditions of staffing and accommodation. Teachers in these schools will be guaranteed salaries on a scale plus cost of living allowance which will represent a great improvement on their present remuneration. Interest-free loans of Rs. 250,000 and Rs. 80,000 respectively have been granted to St. Andrews School and Loreto Convent, Rose Hill for school buildings. The Loreto School is to open in January 1951 and is the sixth secondary school in Mauritius belonging to this House. St. Andrews is a rapidly expanding Anglican secondary school (co-educational) which has recently been added to the grant-aided list.

General Culture and Social Education

Much has been done during the year to widen the culture and social knowledge of the boys and girls of secondary school age. Special arrangements were made to enable large numbers of boys and girls to see performances of the French classics given by an excellent troupe from France, and a performance was given of "She Stoops to Conquer" by the Mauritius Dramatic Club specially for schools. Concerts were given by a first-class violinist and pianist who introduced the young audience to many great musical works. The English Association held its annual literary and musical competitions and were very well supported by the schools. The British Council inaugurated a "Semaine de l'Art" to which secondary school pupils contributed a French play.

Library grants to secondary schools were greatly increased on the recommendation of the Secretary of State and a Special Committee set up by the Governor has just made recommendations for further improvement of library facilities.

Social education is being furthered by the initiation of secondary school term and holiday camps in co-operation with the Youth Organisation and the introduction of the teaching of citizenship.

Examinations

The number of candidates for the Cambridge School examinations continues to increase. For the 1950 examinations there were 985 candidates for Junior School Certificate, 775 candidates for School Certificate and 92 candidates for Higher School Certificate. The results of the 1949 examinations showed an increase in the number of passes in the School Certificate and Higher School Certificate over those of the previous year and the girl candidates for Higher School Certificate did exceptionally well.

In view of the introduction of the General Certificate of Education in the United Kingdom the London Matriculation examination, which was generally taken by private candidates, will not be held after 1951. In order to provide an examination of equivalent standard for the private candidate, arrangements have been made with London University to hold the Overseas General Certificate of Education Examination in Mauritius in 1952.

Further Education

Mauritius, possessing no institution of university status, the organisation of local post-secondary courses and the placing of students in universities and other institutions of higher education overseas becomes a matter of vital importance. Candidates offering Arts subjects often succeed in taking the external degrees of London University but Science candidates are seriously hampered by the limited laboratory facilities in the island.

Plans have now matured for the provision of practical courses in physics, chemistry and biology for candidates working for the external Intermediate B.Sc., of London University, the First Medical Examination and local pharmaceutical examinations.

Six government scholarships have been awarded this year under the Development and Welfare plan to train personnel required for schemes of development. An additional English Scholarship is to be awarded annually for girls; a scholarship and

several six-months' bursaries have been awarded by the British Council. There are at present no less than 218 Mauritian students in the United Kingdom alone pursuing a large variety of courses including Medicine, Dentistry, Law, Engineering, Veterinary Science, Architecture, Nursing, Social Science, Art, Domestic Science, Librarianship, Statistics, Pharmacy, Physiotherapy, Physical Education, Handicrafts, Accountancy as well as Arts and Science subjects as a graduate qualification for teaching.

Adult education is receiving attention by the formation of classes for Art and Handicraft. The objective of these classes will be as much recreational as instructional and fees will be kept very low so as to bring the classes within reach of the smallest income.

Teacher Training

It has now been decided that the scheme for a Residential Training College at Côte d'Or shall be abandoned and instead that the existing college at Beau Bassin shall as soon as possible be expanded so as to provide adequate accommodation to turn out some ninety teachers per annum.

The new Principal has assumed his post, and with a probability of some strengthening of the staff from overseas, it is hoped that the training of teachers for the existing and the new primary schools will, with the necessary addition of untrained relief teachers, keep pace with the ever-expanding school population.

Besides the training of teachers for the primary schools, the Training College is providing a two-year course for a class of fifteen Social Welfare Workers and the Principal is in addition responsible for the training of mechanical engineering apprentices, sixteen of which will in future be admitted for training each year. A course consisting of thirty lectures in practical teaching has also been organized to train prospective teachers of Hindi, Urdu and Tamil for the instruction of those children in the primary schools desiring to learn these languages out of class hours.

The curriculum of the Training College includes methods of teaching those subjects taught in all primary schools—English, French, Arithmetic, Geography and Physical Training—and subjects which are taught only to some of the pupils—Domestic Science, Rural Science, Handicraft and Art. The general culture of the students is furthered by literary and dramatic work, athletics and visits of civic, geographical and historical importance. An important innovation this year has been a week's camp course at

the sea for men and women students, separately, under the general supervision of the Youth Organizer and with the help of the Training College staff. This residential experience is of great value especially so long as no such facilities exist at the college.

With the school practice carried out by the students under the supervision of the tutors and the increasing number of college-trained teachers entering the schools there is a growing appreciation of the importance of knowing John as well as Latin if we wish to teach John Latin. Another important factor in the spread of sound educational ideas is the increased contact between the staff of the Training College and the Inspectors of the primary schools, one of whom is at present taking a course, specialising in primary education, at the London Institute of Education. Finally the Experimental Primary School (Barclay school) is proving itself most useful in furthering the work being done in the Training College. Not only do the students benefit but the teachers and head-teachers who spend one year and three years respectively at the school get an excellent opportunity to refresh and improve their teaching methods.

Youth Organisations

Mauritius has its Scouts and Guides, its Red Cross Groups and its Youth Clubs and, for the last few years, it has had in addition an official youth organisation attached to the Education Department. The chief functions of the Youth Organisation are, firstly, to help existing organisations by providing equipment and leadership courses, including camping, dramatics, handicrafts, physical training; secondly, to start new clubs in various parts of the island; thirdly, to organize holiday camps for school children; fourthly, to provide an annual camp course for students of the Training College. The latest field of activity is the dependency of Rodrigues where equipment and literature has already been sent following on a visit this year by the Youth Organizer. Next year it is hoped to start some camping for the school children and for some of the excellent youth clubs which already exist in this island.

There are in Mauritius twenty-five scout troops and seventeen guide troops, fifty boys' clubs, seventeen girls' clubs and three mixed clubs. In addition, there are a number of closed Catholic youth groups which are not registered with the Youth Organizer. To look after their interests there is a Youth Advisory Committee

with the Director of Education as Chairman, representing all organisations ; the Scout Council and the Girl Guide Commission ; and more recently a Youth Council composed of members of boys' clubs who organize inter-club competitions and social gatherings.

There is a splendid new seaside camp site at Cap Malheureux and this year many camps have been held there including the first training course for girl leaders, boys from the Industrial School, secondary school groups and a large number of club camps. A warden is in charge and all necessary camping equipment is supplied free.

At the Cannoniers' Point camp fifteen hundred children from the primary schools and orphanages enjoyed a week at the sea and next year will see a fifty per cent increase in the numbers. To help run these camps Training College students are seconded in batches. They themselves, men and women, have had their own Training College camp for the first time and the experiment will certainly be repeated.

The Youth Movement is expanding steadily and signs are now visible of the gradual melting of communal and other barriers under the influence of group activities and nothing is more effective in the attainment of this objective than camping together.

Visual Education

The visual aid section which was started in 1947 is under the control of a trained Visual Education Officer and his assistant. Eighty-six films and four hundred filmstrips are now available for use in the primary and secondary schools. Twelve filmstrip projectors are on loan to schools and four more are on order. Some secondary schools have their own film projectors but films are normally projected by the Visual Education Officer or his Assistant. Courses of instruction in the use of projectors and visual-aid methods have been given to teachers, and previews of strips and films are arranged.

Reports from teachers show a growing appreciation of the value of strips and films and the increase in their use is determined chiefly by the cost of equipment and the electrical facilities in rural areas. In this connection, mention should be made of the generous co-operation given by many owners of public cinemas and certain electricity companies who have regularly provided halls and power without charge.

With the help of the Public Relations Office and the Colonial Film Unit a start has been made in the production of a number of local films of the newsreel type.

The Visual Education section services radio equipment which has been loaned to secondary schools and its most recent activity is the supply of complete "public address" equipment which is making meetings of every kind more effective and more enjoyable to the public.

HEALTH

The improvement in the general health of the population was maintained and a further fall in the general death rate and infantile mortality rate is to be recorded. The mean death rate for the ten years 1937 to 1946 was 28.5 per 1000; from 1946 onwards there has been a decrease in the death rate and in 1950 it was further reduced to 13.9. The infantile mortality rate shows a marked reduction from 91 per 1000 in 1949 to 76 per 1000 for the year under review.

The principal factor in bringing this about has been the striking success of the antimalarial measures carried out in recent years. Malaria, which until a few years ago caused the deaths of from 5 to 6 per 1000 of the population each year, now accounts for less than one per 1000, while admissions to hospital on account of this disease which used to average over 3000 per annum amounted in 1950 to less than 300. Owing to the elimination, to so large an extent, of the debilitating effects of chronic malaria, the ability of the population to resist other infections has increased and there has consequently been a simultaneous reduction in the number of deaths due to infection and parasitic diseases.

The hospital service provides 2052 beds for all purposes comprising the following:—

| | | |
|---------------------------------|--------|------|
| General (including obstetrical) | ... | 1151 |
| Orthopaedic | | 190 |
| Leper | | 53 |
| Mental | | 658 |

There are two general hospitals situated in the capital town of Port Louis and in the district of Plaines Wilhems. These are fully equipped for major surgery, radiology and radiotherapy. There are six district hospitals for general and maternity cases, but surgery is limited to minor operations with the exception of the hospital in Moka district which also caters for major surgical work.

Each hospital has an out-patient department and eye and orthopaedic clinics are maintained at Civil, Victoria and Moka Hospitals. Associated with each of the two general hospitals is a training school for nurses and midwives. To serve remote rural areas 32 stationary and two mobile dispensaries are maintained.

Antenatal and Child Welfare Services are provided in ten centres by the Maternity and Child Welfare Society and these are supplemented by seven antenatal clinics under Government auspices. Eye and orthopaedic clinics are conducted at Victoria and Civil Hospitals.

Buildings

The additional wards at Civil Hospital are now completed and occupied. Further accommodation for the Mental Hospital is under construction. Funds have been provided for the building of a Nurses' Home in Port Louis and a site has been acquired.

Antimalarial Measures

Permanent works of canalising rivers and draining marshes continued and works already completed were maintained in good condition. Meantime the first phase of the eradication experiment was completed at the end of the year. This consisted in applying insecticides with a residual effect to the internal surfaces of houses, cattlesheds, etc. The result briefly has been that *A. funestus* has almost entirely disappeared and there is every reason to believe that this species will shortly be extinct. *A. gambiae*, however, continues to flourish although it is seldom found in human habitations. The second phase, attacking the mosquito in its larval stage, will begin in 1951.

HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING

In common with conditions existing in many other countries throughout the world, building in towns and rural areas in Mauritius has in the past in many cases been indiscriminate and such evils as ribbon development and overcrowding are common. This problem is now being tackled in earnest and although local conditions for enforcement of Town Planning laws and regulations are less favourable than those existing in European countries, it is hoped that the introduction of such laws and regulations will go a long way to ensure the development of balanced communities in the future.

In supplementation of the Town Planning laws and regulations (now in their last stages of drafting) and in order to assist the Local Township Boards, Government is now about to embark upon an experimental housing scheme. This scheme, when completed, will form a complete neighbourhood unit of 28 houses, community centre, shops, church, temple and recreation grounds. The 28 houses are planned in seven types of two, three and four-room labourers' dwellings and each house will be constructed using different types of local materials. It is hoped to obtain valuable information from this experiment as to the best and cheapest methods of housing construction, what would be an economic rent for the working classes and what type of housing is most suitable to their needs.

The building of private houses has gone ahead steadily during the year but this development, apart from sugar estate housing, is intended mostly for the middle class and is exclusively urban development. A method of speedy house erection, used extensively in the United Kingdom, has been introduced into the Colony and the contractor hopes to be able to provide housing at rents suitable for the higher paid wage earner. This scheme at the moment is still under consideration ; consequently no figures are as yet available.

Public Health

Gradual modernization and improvement of existing hospital facilities has been kept up during the year and plans for a large new Orthopaedic Hospital are now in their final stages. This hospital, when completed, will incorporate the latest developments in design suitable for this highly specialised branch of medicine and surgery.

The construction programme of dispensaries and child welfare clinics throughout the Colony will be further increased in the coming year by the erection of three dispensaries and six child welfare clinics.

Education

To ease the present overcrowding in rural schools and, at the same time, absorb the number of would-be scholars now prevented from attending school, a programme for the erection of temporary schools is now under way. Five schools are at present under construction and ten schools are scheduled for construction in the coming year. Type plans have been evolved for school buildings and each plan provides for handicraft instruction, milk distribution and accommodation for the head-teachers.

Police Building

Preliminary estimates have been prepared and approved for a new Police Training School and detailed planning will go ahead in the coming year. Police housing is also receiving attention and preliminary estimates have been prepared for bringing this up-to-date and for the complete housing of all Police personnel.

General

The building development programme of the Colony is well under way and despite the serious difficulties of rising costs, shortages of materials, and lack of skilled building operatives, providing no major disturbance takes place, it is felt that a point of full momentum should be reached in this programme within the next two years.

SOCIAL WELFARE

During the year the Public Assistance Department has considerably widened its contact with the public. Regular allowances were paid to 9,389 persons by way of outdoor Relief and although approximately 2,500 persons in receipt of assistance were transferred in October to the Old Age Pensions register, the list of successful applicants for outdoor relief showed an appreciable increase between that month and December. In all, including the successful applicants for Old Age Pensions, allowances were issued during the year to approximately 19,500 persons. In addition over 1,100 received Indoor Relief: 200 children, 534 men and 366 women. A large number of these applicants are heads of households and it is therefore clear that the department's activities affect not less than 2 in every 15 of the inhabitants of the island. The average amount paid by way of Outdoor Relief at the end of the year was Rs. 10 per month per person: at the end of 1949 it was Rs. 84. Immediate relief to 3,578 applicants in 1950 cost Rs. 40,733.

In addition the Department's workshops continued to provide employment for an average of 75 widows with large families, who received in all Rs. 51,322 by way of wages. Applications for non-contributory Old Age Pensions were first accepted on the 5th of September 1950 although payable from the 1st of July. More than 13,000 persons—1,500 above expectation—had applied by the end of the year, 10,500 have been awarded pensions, the majority at the maximum rate of Rs. 15 per month. In all the amount paid by the department for Pensions Relief, and ancillary services such as the provision of milk for poor mothers and children amounted to Rs. 2,047,736 as compared with Rs. 1,048,608 in

1949. Not unexpectedly, certain initial difficulties arose in relation to Old Age Pensions over the declaration of income, particularly of wages and a number of re-assessments had to be made. The end of the year saw the clearance of the majority of these cases.

The Public Assistance Commissioner visited Rodrigues in November to discuss the general administration of Old Age Pensions and Outdoor Relief with the Magistrate. As the result of her visit an Adjudicating Officer spent three months in the dependency to deal with initial application for Old Age Pensions, which numbered over 350, and to review cases of Outdoor Relief. The total of these, in spite of the transfer of a number of cases to Old Age Pension, has increased to one hundred.

Old Age Pensions

Since 1939, when a Committee under the chairmanship of the Labour Commissioner considered the whole subject, Mauritius has been preoccupied about the possibility of a social security scheme and has studied the methods of the U.K.

As in the U.K. the first effective measure has been an Old Age Pensions Scheme and a non-contributory scheme was approved as from the 1st of July 1950. The first payments were made by the end of September.

The qualifications for payment of Old Age Pensions are simple: the pensioner must be 65 years of age, unless he is so blind as to be unable to work, in which case the qualifying age is 40 years. In practice less than twenty blind persons have availed themselves of this privilege. The pensioner must as a rule be a British subject and, if so, he must have had 12 years residence in Mauritius during the last 20 years. Alternatively, an alien who has resided in the colony a minimum of 25 years, may now also be a successful applicant. The maximum pension is Rs. 15 per month but a pensioner can only receive this sum if his total income, including pension, does not exceed Rs. 30 per month. If his income, apart from pension, is over Rs. 15 and under Rs. 30 the pension is proportionately reduced. An applicant is not eligible for a pension when receiving treatment in a hospital or in an infirmary, or is in prison. All these conditions apply equally to women as to men.

In an effort to estimate closely the probable number of successful applicants, aged persons had, on two previous occasions, been invited to make a test registration and on the basis of these figures

a total of 11,600 applicants was expected. This figure has been considerably exceeded and by the 31st December, 1950, no less than 13,223 applications had been received. In practice the lower death rate, in itself a cause of gratification, has also affected the total live load of pensioners.

As regards actual age, some pensioners were very old indeed, one or two being actually centenarians, and a few were original immigrants. A large number of those in the 65-70 age group may be still at work, one or two have been paid on their death-bed, some are bedridden, blind, deaf or deaf-mutes. All infirm pensioners are visited in their own homes but it is obvious that a number of pensioners are by no means reluctant to visit the local officer. The same lack of reluctance was noticeable in Rodrigues. One old lady calls weekly at Port Louis to see if the current week is a pay week. 26% of all applicants are men and of the grand total 57% are Indo-Mauritians though here the percentage of men is 31%. Only a small number are Chinese, though this figure has been increased by a certain number of aliens of long residence.

The Secretary of State's original approval of the scheme involved taking all income into account and this proved almost totally unexpected, particularly as income was interpreted by many applicants as excluding earnings. There is in fact still a marked tendency to expect a pension on the age qualification only irrespective of income. From October to December little was heard from the large number of satisfied applicants who had received a full pension but much from those who had been, on the basis of their own statements, awarded either no pension or a reduced monthly amount. In November the Governor agreed to ask the Secretary of State to increase the income ceiling from Rs. 15 to Rs. 30 and this was approved together with inclusion of aliens long resident in the colony, just in time to clear a number of cases on the 29th and 30th December. By that time the scheme may be said to have settled down and the bulk of initial applications had been received.

The excess of applications over expectation and the deep interest shown in the amount of the pension, indicate that the measure has met a real need ; in a fairly large number of cases the means of existence disclosed by applicants was slender and in some instances it has been possible to award Outdoor Relief to a dependent member of the applicant's family. Both the payments of pension and their absence have been the signal for tears for men as well as women. One old man who received Rs. 90 representing

six months' payment of full pension said that he had never seen, much less handled, so much money in his life. An old woman went off in triumph to buy herself three skirts at once; it was evident that her wardrobe depended hitherto on handed on part-worn clothing. Candles and prayers to Saint Joseph have not been lacking: nor have hard words when expectations were unfulfilled.

Orphanages and Infirmaries

The total of persons receiving institutional relief, both young and old, is fortunately a small one though 1,100 persons were in care during the year. The total at the end of the year was 185 children and 589 adults. Children deprived of parental care are placed on outdoor relief with relatives whenever possible. Constant contact is maintained with orphanages and infirmaries.

A week at the seaside holiday camp made available, through the generosity of the Help the Children Fund, to selected orphans from the various orphanages, who were visited by the Mayor of Port Louis during this period.

The Municipality made possible, by a generous gift, the Children's Day, when all children from orphanages enjoyed a day's outing organised by the Department in the Pleasure Ground which included a Boat Trip round the Harbour.

Attractive painted wooden toys have been made for children in orphanages in the workshops at Beau Bassin prison from wood supplied by the Public Assistance Department.

Community Activities

Two type of organisations at somewhat different levels have been set up to stimulate the development of community activities.

In the first place the Labour Welfare Fund Committee has approved, in principle, a scheme administered by the Social Welfare Department for the erection of fifteen Social Welfare Centres which are to be concerned primarily with the care of mothers and young children. Two such centres are operating, and seven more are in various stages of construction. Steps have been taken during the latter half of the year to secure the closer co-operation of the Civil Commissioners, the Medical Department and the Maternity and Child Welfare Association in this work.

Secondly, the same Committee has placed at the disposal of the Social Welfare Department, a sum of money, to create, in suitable small communities, recreational centres known as community centres, and which it is hoped to develop as a means of informal education. So far grants have been approved for nine such centres, in close association with Civil Commissioners and Village Councils, while other local groups have received wireless sets, library books, etc. A programme is now being prepared to cover a four years' period.

The Self Help centres are still in existence, but they have not been extended and are likely to be merged in a similar but larger movement organized by Village Councils.

Voluntary Organisations

The Help the Children Fund made its third collection in December and collected Rs. 31,300. Apart from providing a week's seaside camp for selected children from orphanages, the funds have been spent in providing food, medical treatment and clothing, especially the last named, for poor children.

The most important grant-aided institution is the Maternity and Child Welfare Association, which received Rs. 4,000 per month for milk for poor homes; various social welfare centres also received money for distribution of milk. Dried milk is being sent to Rodrigues.

Advisory Committees, Central and Local

Central Advisory Committees exist for Social Welfare (with special reference to co-operation and co-ordination) and for the more specialised work of Public Assistance. At the same time there are forty local Public Assistance Advisory Committees. These Committees consider reports, on application, for outdoor relief and recommend to the Headquarters of the Public Assistance Department the amount of relief which should be paid in each case. The Department normally accepts these recommendations, but seeks to safeguard uniformity where circumstances are identical. Representation on these Committees has been successfully sought by a number of Village Councils.

A Voluntary Society, the Help the Children Fund, has adopted the principle of local Committees. Seventeen have been created to distribute to poor children relief in cash and kind.

The Probation Service

The Probation Service has become indispensable for efficient court-work. The general tendency of the court is now to make the punishment fit the offender, the object of the punishment being reformatory rather than retributive. This applies both to adults and juveniles. The figure of adults released on probation during the year was 217 compared with 49 in 1949.

The great increase of the use of probation in adult courts is a sure sign that it is more and more believed that probation is not necessarily a lenient way of dealing with juvenile offenders, but a positive method of morally re-educating children and adults so as to make of them law-abiding citizens.

Chapter VIII—Legislation

Eighty-four Ordinances were passed by the Legislative Council and assented to by the Governor as compared with fifty-two in 1949.

These Ordinances, with two exceptions, deal with matters of domestic concern, and the more important of them are:—

- (1) The Holidays (Amendment) Ordinance, 1950. (Ordinance No. 2 of 1950).

This Ordinance empowers the Governor to proclaim any specified day as estate holiday without reference, as hitherto, to the Legislative or Executive Councils, a procedure which was lengthy and cumbersome.

- (2) The Customs Tariff (Amendment) Ordinance, 1950. (Ordinance No. 4 of 1950).

This Ordinance was passed to increase the customs duty on matches imported into the Colony for the sole purpose of protecting the local industry which was adversely affected by foreign competition.

- (3) The Weights and Measures (Amendment) Ordinance, 1950. (Ordinance No. 5 of 1950).

The object of this Ordinance is to deter traders from using or from being in possession of false weights and measures, the existing penalties having proved manifestly inadequate as deterrent factors

and such offences having had a marked tendency to increase to the detriment of the poorer classes of the country who prove easy victims of the unscrupulous retailers of goods. This aim is achieved:—

- (a) by substantially increasing the penalties for these offences;
- (b) by providing for the publication of the name of the offenders in the *Government Gazette* and the posting up of the convictions on the trade premises of the offenders.

(4) The Civil Status (Amendment) Ordinance, 1950. (Ordinance No. 7 of 1950).

This Ordinance was passed to secure a uniform system of classification of causes of death throughout the world in accordance with the procedure followed by the World Health Organisation. A model form of "Certificate of the cause of death" prescribed by the Organisation has, with slight modifications, been substituted for the form now in use.

(5) The Mauritius Judicature (Seychelles Appeals) Order in Council, 1904 (Amendment) Ordinance, 1950. (Ordinance No. 9 of 1950).

This Ordinance was passed at the request of the Government of Seychelles to confer jurisdiction on the Supreme Court of Mauritius (which is the Court of Appeal for Seychelles in civil cases) to hear appeals from convictions in capital cases. Retrospective effect was given to the Ordinance on account of a recent murder case the trial of which had already started in Seychelles when the Ordinance was passed.

(6) The Industrial Associations (Amendment) Ordinance, 1950. Ordinance No. 13 of 1950).

The main object of the Ordinance is to make it possible for an industrial association to be composed of a group of employers or employees in different industries or trades provided the interests of the employers or employees in any of the industries or trades forming part of the group are not already sufficiently represented by an industrial association. The Ordinance further provides that an association which has failed to apply for registration within the specified time or has been refused registration should be dissolved, penalties being provided against the members of the association if the association is not so dissolved.

(7) The Mauritius Development and Welfare Fund (Loans) Ordinance, 1950. (Ordinance No. 14 of 1950).

The object of this Ordinance is to authorize the Governor, or the Crown Agents acting on his behalf, to raise in London from time to time loans of such amounts as the Governor may consider necessary, provided such amounts in the aggregate do not exceed sixty and a half million rupees, to be appropriated to the Mauritius Development and Welfare Fund and to Local Bodies for Housing Schemes. It is proposed to appropriate fifty million rupees to the Welfare and Development Fund and ten and a half million to Local Bodies.

(8) The Workmen's Compensation (Amendment) Ordinance, 1950. (Ordinance No. 16 of 1950).

This Ordinance provides for reference to a medical referee and regulates the procedure to be followed, where conflicts arise between employer and workman or their respective medical advisers with reference to a given workman's condition or fitness for employment and other kindred matters in cases of injury to workmen which give rise to payment of compensation.

(9) The Road Traffic (Amendment) Ordinance, 1950. Ordinance No. 18 of 1950).

This Ordinance provides for the compulsory registration of bicycles and the issuing of an identification plate to be borne by every bicycle, at a nominal fee of one rupee and aims at facilitating the work of the Police in tracing out guilty parties in cases of theft of bicycles which have become rife in the Colony. The Ordinance will come into force on a date to be fixed by Proclamation.

(10) The Prisons (Amendment) Ordinance, 1950. Ordinance No. 19 of 1950).

This Ordinance was passed to make it clear that a prison guard killing or wounding a prisoner in the circumstances specified in the new section (49A) added to the Prisons Ordinance, 1887, will not escape criminal or civil liability unless he establishes that the killing or wounding was justifiable.

(11) The Dangerous Game Snares and Wells (Amendment) Ordinance, 1950. (Ordinance No. 25 of 1950).

This Ordinance sets out clearly the procedure and conditions under which a permit will henceforth be granted to any person for making or digging any game snare or trap on his premises. A penalty is further provided for any breach of the conditions of the permit.

- (12) The Discharged Persons' Aid Committee Ordinance, 1950.
(Ordinance No. 27 of 1950).

The object of this Ordinance is to set up a committee to perform such welfare work on behalf of persons discharged from prisons or other disciplinary establishments as would ensure the rehabilitation of such persons in civil life. The Ordinance makes provision for an allocation of money from Government Funds to assist the Committee in fulfilling its functions.

- (13) The Commission of Enquiry (Amendment) Ordinance, 1950. (Ordinance No. 28 of 1950).

This Ordinance removes doubt as to the true purport of two sections of the main Ordinance (sections 2(4) and 11(3) of Ordinance No. 7 of 1944. It makes clear that (i) a commission of enquiry may prohibit the public generally from being present at an enquiry when such a course is desirable in the public interest, (ii) that the fine provided for contempt of the Commission shall be imposed by the Commission but payment thereof shall be enforced by the appropriate District Court.

- (14) The St. Andrews' College Foundation Ordinance, 1950.
(Ordinance No. 30 of 1950).

This Ordinance was introduced as a private member's bill with the leave of the Council and has for object the establishment, incorporation and management of a Foundation to build and endow a college and thereby further the secondary education of Mauritius youth of both sexes. The Foundation has been liberally endowed with funds contributed by the Founder Dr. the Hon. Edgar Laurent, C.M.G.

- (15) The Graduated Poll Tax (Amendment) Ordinance, 1950.
(Ordinance No. 33 of 1950).

This Ordinance raises the exemption limit of yearly incomes for payment of Poll Tax from Rs. 4,000 to Rs. 5,000; the cases falling between these points require for their examination by the staff of the Poll Tax Department such time and attention as is altogether out of proportion with the amount of tax involved.

(16) The Municipality (Amendment) Ordinance, 1950. (Ordinance No. 35 of 1950).

This Ordinance effects important changes in the Municipality Ordinance brought about mainly by the extension of the franchise for the election of councillors whose number is increased from twelve to sixteen and provides for the compilation and revision of the register of persons entitled to vote at the election of municipal councillors. An opportunity has been taken to effect several minor amendments to the main Ordinance.

(17) The Minimum Wages Ordinance, 1950. (Ordinance No. 36 of 1950).

This Ordinance repeals the existing Minimum Wages Ordinance, 1934, which it replaces by legislation which is more in keeping with the modern trend. It provides for the creation of a Minimum Wages Advisory Board by the Governor in Council and sets up machinery for the effective regulation of the remuneration of workers (including holiday remuneration) in cases of conflict or in cases where conflict is anticipated. Provision is also made for the making in the appropriate cases of wages regulation orders, and for the enforcing of such orders.

(18) The Town Councils (Constitution) Ordinance, 1950. (Ordinance No. 38 of 1950).

This Ordinance was introduced as a result of the new constitutions granted to the Town Councils of Curepipe, Beau Bassin and Rose Hill, and Quatre Bornes, the councillors being partly elected and partly nominated. It provides for the compilation and revision of registers of persons entitled to vote at the elections, for the procedure to be followed in connection with these elections and the return of elected candidates for offences relating to elections, for the election of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Town Councils, and for the regulation of the proceedings at the Town Council.

(19) The Customs Tariff (Amendment No. 2) Ordinance, 1950. (Ordinance No. 39 of 1950).

This Ordinance removes the export duty on alcohol with a view to helping the industry to revive its export trade of alcohol.

- (20) The Denaturation of Spirits (Consolidation) (Amendment) Ordinance, 1950. (Ordinance No. 40 of 1950).

This Ordinance removes the excise duty on denatured spirits in order to encourage distillers to revive the manufacture of power alcohol.

- (21) The Sweepstakes and Bets (Levy of Tax) (Amendment) Ordinance, 1950. (Ordinance No. 41 of 1950).

The Country Liquor (Excise Duty) (Amendment) Ordinance, 1950. (Ordinance No. 62 of 1950).

The Customs Tariff (Amendment No. 4) Ordinance, 1950. (Ordinance No. 64 of 1950).

The Distilleries (Amendment) Ordinance, 1950. (Ordinance No. 66 of 1950).

These Ordinances were introduced to increase the rate of tax leviable on sweepstakes and bets, the excise duty on country liquor, the customs duties on spirits and wines and the excise duty on colonial spirits respectively and thereby raise additional revenue to help defray the expenses incurred in implementing the non-contributory Old Age Pensions Scheme.

- (22) The Holidays (Amendment No. 2) Ordinance, 1950. (Ordinance No. 47 of 1950).

The object of this Ordinance is to add the first of May to the statutory list of Bank, Office and Estate holidays in order to permit workers of this Colony to have a day's rest to celebrate Labour ideals.

- (23) The Fisheries (Amendment) Ordinance, 1950. (Ordinance No. 49 of 1950).

This Ordinance was passed mainly to control the introduction of fresh water fish in Mauritius.

- (24) The Mauritius Hemp Producers' Syndicate Ordinance, 1950. (Ordinance No. 51 of 1950).

This Ordinance re-enacts with certain modifications the Mauritius Hemp Producers' Syndicate Ordinance, 1939 (Ordinance No. 16 of 1939) which has expired through effluxion of time. This Ordinance provides for the appointment of a committee on which all interests are fairly represented for fixing the price of fibre to be supplied to the Government Sack Factory.

- (25) The Liquor (Amendment) Ordinance, 1950. (Ordinance No. 52 of 1950).

The object of this Ordinance is to help the co-operative retail movement: retail co-operative stores are henceforth allowed to sell liquor and rum to their members on payment of a purely nominal licence fee.

- (26) The Stage Plays Ordinance, 1950. (Ordinance No. 53 of 1950).

This Ordinance makes provision for regulating the presentation, performance and censorship of stage plays and for ensuring the safety and comfort of theatregoers in buildings where stage plays are performed.

- (27) The Building Societies Ordinance, 1950. (Ordinance No. 54 of 1950)).

This Ordinance was introduced to provide for the institution and incorporation—on the lines of the English Building Societies Act 1874—of societies (known as building societies) whose purpose is to raise by subscriptions of the members thereof a stock or fund from which advances would be made to members upon security by way of mortgage. The establishment of such societies will help to relieve the housing problem.

- (28) The Dangerous Drugs Ordinance, 1950. (Ordinance No. 55 of 1950).

This Ordinance consolidates the existing laws of the Colony in respect of dangerous drugs and brings at the same time the local legislation on dangerous drugs into line with the modern English Legislation on the subject. The Ordinance will render the control over the trade in narcotics more effective.

- (29) The Mauritius Development and Welfare Fund (Local Loans), 1950. (Ordinance No. 56 of 1950).

The object of this Ordinance is to authorise the Governor to raise in the colony loans of an aggregate not exceeding twenty-five million rupees to be appropriated to the Mauritius Development and Welfare Fund and to Local Bodies for housing schemes. The Ordinance provides for the issuing, conversion, pledging and cancellation of the debentures.

(30) The Savings Banks Ordinance, 1950. (Ordinance No. 57 of 1950).

The main object of this Ordinance is to transfer the management and control of the Government Savings Bank to the Postmaster General. The Ordinance is, with minor amendments, practically a reproduction of the Savings Banks Ordinance, 1936.

(31) The Police (Amendment) Ordinance, 1950. (Ordinance No. 61 of 1950).

This Ordinance provides for the punishment of persons causing disaffection among members of the Police Force likely to lead to breaches of duty on the part of such members of the Force and thus brings our legislation on the subject in line with the English legislation.

(32) The Police Federation Ordinance, 1950. (Ordinance No. 67 of 1950).

This Ordinance makes provision for the institution of a police federation on the lines of the Police Federation in the United Kingdom, for the purpose of enabling members of the Police Force to consider and bring to the notice of the authorities matters affecting their general welfare and efficiency.

(33) The Agricultural Bank Ordinance, 1950. (Ordinance No. 68 of 1950).

This Ordinance has consolidated the law with regard to the Agricultural Bank and has at the same time implemented the following recommendations of the Mauritius Economic Commission (i) that the Bank be empowered to raise more funds (ii) that the Bank be able to make loans to enterprises other than agriculture.

Other noteworthy changes brought about by the Ordinance are:—

(1) the use made of the machinery of the Bank towards solving the housing problem by empowering it to make loans for the purpose of building or purchasing a residence ;

(2) the Chief Executive Officer of the Bank is the Manager and not the Chairman ;

(3) the right of appeal against orders of the Manager has been extended to borrowers owing less than Rs. 5,000.

(34) The Tobacco Board Employees' Provident Fund Ordinance, 1950. (Ordinance No. 71 of 1950).

The object of this Ordinance is to provide for the constitution of a Provident Fund for the employees of the Tobacco Board in lieu of the Pension Fund constituted under Ordinance No. 76 of 1946. The provisions of this Ordinance are more liberal than those of the repealed Ordinance and even those employees who owing to age have not contributed to the Fund or who have had service with the Board prior to the 1st January, 1948, will be entitled to receive on retirement a gratuity in respect of their service.

(35) The Graduated Poll Tax (Amendment No. 5) Ordinance, 1950. (Ordinance No. 72 of 1950).

This Ordinance was passed to grant relief, under certain conditions, in respect of tax paid in a territory with which there is no double taxation relief convention.

(36) The Education (Amendment No. 2) Ordinance, 1950. (Ordinance No. 77 of 1950).

This Ordinance raises the number of English Scholarships to be attributed to girls every year from one to two. Retrospective effect is given to the Ordinance to allow the girl candidate placed second as a result of the examination held in December 1949 to benefit thereby.

(37) The Commercial Partnerships (Sociétés Commerciales) (Investigation of Affairs) Ordinance No. 79 of 1950).

This Ordinance gives the Governor in Council the power to order the investigation of the affairs of a commercial partnership (société commerciale) on the application of partners representing at least 10% of the capital involved and regulates the procedure of such investigation. The Ordinance further makes it compulsory (i) that a general meeting of the partners be convened at least once a year, and (ii) that the Manager shall convene a meeting of the partners in case more than 75% of the partnership capital is lost.

(38) The Colonial Spirits (Export Control) Ordinance, 1950. (Ordinance No. 82 of 1950).

This Ordinance was passed to provide for the examination and control of all colonial spirits for exportation in order to ensure that such spirits comply with such a standard as render them fit for export.

(39) The Income Tax Ordinance, 1950. (Ordinance No. 84 of 1950).

The object of this Ordinance is to impose a tax upon incomes in lieu of the poll tax levied hitherto. Certain modifications have been introduced, mainly as the result of experience gained in the past, to facilitate the application of income tax and the collection thereof.

Other noteworthy features of the Ordinance are :

(1) the liability of Dominion governments to taxation in respect of trading operations and the granting of an allowance to mine owning companies to cover exhaustion of mine and diminution in value of related works;

(2) all adjustments permitted by the Poll Tax Ordinance have been maintained;

(3) in ascertaining the chargeable income of an individual provision is made for the deduction of one-fifth of the earned income provided such deduction does not exceed Rs. 3,000. Other allowances are made for a wife, children and dependants or in respect of life assurances and contribution to approved superannuation funds or schemes;

(4) allowances additional to those under the Poll Tax Ordinance are granted in respect of plant and machinery when the plant or machinery is sold or destroyed or put out of use;

(5) reliefs allowed under the Poll Tax Ordinance are continued including relief in respect of tax paid in a territory where there is no double taxation relief convention.

Chapter IX—Justice

The Laws of Mauritius are mainly based on the French Codes. The Civil Code, the Penal Code, the Code of Commerce and the Code of Civil Procedure, with such amendments as have been made thereto to suit local conditions, are still to a large extent in force in the Island. There is also a great number of Ordinances.

The Bankruptcy Law, the Law of Evidence and the Law of Civil and Criminal Procedure are, however, mostly English, as well as the whole system of the Labour Laws.

The highest judicial authority is the Supreme Court of Judicature presided over by the Chief Justice assisted by two Puisne Judges.

The Executive Officer of that Court is the Master and Registrar who is also a Judge of the Bankruptcy Division of the Court.

The Supreme Court is a superior Court of Record and has the same powers, authority and jurisdiction as His Majesty's Court of King's Bench in England. It exercises Admiralty jurisdiction in virtue of the Colonial Courts of Admiralty Act 1890 and is also a Court of Equity. It has jurisdiction over all the other Courts of the Colony and hears appeals from the Supreme Court of the Colony of Seychelles.

Appeals lie to the Privy Council in certain cases against judgments of the Supreme Court.

The Judges of the Supreme Court preside over the Assize Court, the verdict being returned by a jury of nine men ; the decision must be that of at least seven out of the nine members.

The District Magistrates of the Colony have jurisdiction in Civil Cases in which the subject matter does not exceed one thousand rupees in value. They hold judicial enquiries in cases of accidental death or of fire, and preliminary enquiries in cases triable at the Assize Court. In addition they deal with certain matters in Chambers.

The summary jurisdiction of the District Courts in criminal matters is vested in a District Magistrate who deals with the less serious offences and is empowered to sentence an accused party to imprisonment with or without hard labour, for a term not exceeding one year, and to a fine not exceeding one thousand rupees.

Certain offences may be tried by an intermediary Court consisting of a Bench of three Magistrates who can impose a sentence of penal servitude of not more than three years and a sentence of imprisonment of not more than two years.

The number of Magistrates is now 11. One of them, as resident Magistrate, administers justice in the dependency of Rodrigues.

A visiting Magistrate inspects once annually each of the Lesser Dependencies.

There is in addition an Industrial Court which is presided over by a Magistrate and which has jurisdiction in all labour disputes including workmen's compensation and matters arising out of factory legislation.

The administrative control over the Magistracy, has since 1945, been vested in the Chief Justice.

The Probation System has been extended to the whole Island and is working satisfactorily.

There has been an increase of about 16% in the number of Civil Cases entered before the Supreme Court, as compared with the previous year.

The number of cases filed before the Industrial Court in 1950 is more than double the number of cases filed in the preceding year. There has also been a slight increase in the number of cases brought before the District Courts.

POLICE

History

The origin of a Police organisation in Mauritius has been traced back as far as 1766, when the island was a French possession.

In 1810, after the British occupation, the then existing police organisation apparently continued under British administration, Mr. A. W. Blane being the first British Officer to command, what is now, the Mauritius Police Force.

From time to time, the Force was reorganized and its present organisation appears to have been the result of recommendations of a Commission of Enquiry in 1859, which amalgamated the Police with the Municipal Police under one superior command bearing the title of Inspector General of Police. This title was replaced in 1934 by that of Commissioner of Police.

The Police Ordinance giving effect to the report of the 1859 Commission was subsequently replaced by the Police Ordinance of 1893 which, after 57 years, is still in force, though amended from

time to time. This Ordinance regulates the organisation, discipline, powers and duties of the Force, as well as the enlistment, engagement and the conditions of service of members of the Force.

Organisation

The Mauritius Police Force has an establishment of 28 Officers and 847 other ranks all of whom (with exception of the head of the Force) are Mauritians. In addition, there are 20 Police Women who are employed on clerical work.

In the period 1950-52, the Force will increase by 250 Constables, with a proportionate increase in non-commissioned-Officers, in order that an eight-hour working day may be introduced in place of the system now in operation—six hours on duty, with six hours in readiness. Two of the principal urban police districts were augmented with the extra staff needed to shorten the working hours.

In addition to its primary responsibility for preventing and detecting crimes and for maintaining law and order, the force is responsible for the control of immigration and emigration, weights and measures, the issuing of licences (motor vehicles, drivers, liquor, firearms, etc.), the collection of inland revenue, the supervision of licensed premises and other extraneous duties.

The constables are trained in foot and baton drill, and a number of selected personnel in each District and at Headquarters are trained in the use of tear smoke.

Distribution of Personnel

The personnel of the Force is distributed among:—

- (a) Police Headquarters and its eight branches ;
- (b) six District Police Headquarters controlling 43 police stations and posts ;
- (c) the Forensic Science Laboratory ;
- (d) the Railway Police ;
- (e) the Rodriguez Police.

Police Headquarters

The Commissioner of Police, assisted by the Deputy Commissioner and various other Officers, controls the whole Force from his headquarters in Line Barracks, Port Louis.

The following special branches of the Force are each under the charge of a gazetted Officer:—

- Criminal Investigation Branch ;
- Pay and Quartermaster's Branch ;
- Road Traffic Branch ;
- Revenue and Liquor Branch ;
- Training School ;
- Band ;
- Water Police ;
- The Rodriguez Police.

The Criminal Investigation Department and Crime

This Branch has a strength of 2 Officers and 39 other ranks. It is responsible for the investigation of serious crimes and cases of a special nature; it also affords assistance to the district police when necessary and collates the statistics of crime for the whole Island.

The total number of crimes, misdemeanours, and contraventions dealt with by the Police during 1950 was 43,511 as against 39,893 in 1949 ; the figure for crimes being 636 as compared with 649 for the preceding year.

To the Criminal Investigation Department are attached the Finger-Print and *Modus Operandi* Bureau, the Photographic Section, the Immigration and Passport Section and the Central Registry of Habitual Criminals.

Supervision is maintained over habitual criminals and bad characters who are sentenced to Police supervision by the Courts.

The Police Museum

A Police Museum, which contains an interesting collection of exhibits connected with important criminal cases and other Police relics, is open to all ranks of the Force and to the general public.

The Pay and Quartermaster Branch

Under the charge of the Pay and Quartermaster of the Force, this Branch is divided into two sections: the Pay section and the Store section, the latter under the special charge of the Assistant Pay and Quartermaster.

The Pay section is specially responsible for all the finance and accounting of the Force and for the collection of inland revenue ; the Store section deals with the indenting of materials, the manufacture and issue of uniform to all ranks, and the supply generally of stores and accoutrements to the Force.

Road Traffic Control and Police Transport

The following table shows the present strength of the Branch in personnel and vehicles, compared to what it was in the last decade :—

PERSONNEL

| | 1940 | 1950 |
|----------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Officers... .. | 2 | 2 |
| Warrant Officers ... | — | 1 |
| N. C. Os | 4 | 9 |
| Constables | 16 | 65 |
| Police Women ... | — | 3 |
| TOTAL ... | 22 | 80 |

POLICE VEHICLES

| | 1940 | 1950 |
|--------------------------|----------|-----------|
| Lorries | 1 | 5 |
| Motor Wagon ... | — | — |
| Motor Cars | 1 | 4 |
| Wireless Vans... .. | — | 3 |
| Jeep Wagons | — | 4 |
| Vans | 1 | — |
| Station Wagons ... | — | 8 |
| Motor Cycles (solos) ... | 4 | 20 |
| TOTAL ... | 7 | 44 |

Among the many duties for which the Traffic Branch is responsible, are the enforcement of the Road Traffic Ordinance and Regulations, the control of traffic on the roads, the licensing of drivers and vehicles and the examination of goods and public service vehicles.

Motor cycle patrols regularly cover the main roads of the Island and are responsible for reporting offences against the traffic laws, for preventing such offences as far as they possibly can and endeavouring to teach driving discipline and road courtesy.

Similarly, foot patrols are employed in Port Louis regulating traffic, enforcing parking regulations and dealing with cases of obstruction. One of the wireless vans is fitted with a loud-hailer which is used for traffic and crowd control.

The police garage, staffed by a sergeant-mechanic assisted by eight mechanics, one coach builder, two painters, one upholsterer and one electrician, is well equipped to carry out the maintenance of and repairs to the 44 vehicles belonging to the Force.

A drawing office with a qualified draughtsman in charge is also attached to the Branch.

The Revenue and Liquor Branch

This Branch controls the collection of inland revenue and for that purpose keeps a card index record of all trade licences issued quarterly. Regular checks of the premises of licensees are effected by the personnel of the branch, whose duties also include the prevention and detection of offences against the Distillery, Liquor, Dangerous Drugs and Weights and Measures laws. The Branch pays particular attention to the detection of opium offences and to illicit distillation of spirits.

The Training School

Recruits from among young men of the local population are enlisted between the ages of 18 and 25, after undergoing educational and medical examinations. Selections are made by a Standing Board of Officers appointed and convened for the purpose.

The school aims at training the members of the Force on the same lines as the training given in England, and to inculcate in them tact, patience, tolerance, good humour, initiative and the ability to rely on their own judgment and resources.

The normal period of training of recruits at the Training School is six months, which affords time to give adequate instruction in laws, police duties and procedure, general knowledge, first aid, elementary drill, riot drill and physical training.

Recruits undergo theoretical training during the first three months, and practical training including station and street duties during the second half of their stage at the School.

A revision of Police rates of pay, dating from July 1949, has been accompanied by an improved flow of applicants for enlistment, but their general level of education still leaves much to be desired.

The Band

The Mauritius Police Band which was created in 1921 is a full military brass band, composed of trained musicians. A dance orchestra was formed in 1947 from among members of the band.

The Bandmaster has qualified in his duties at the Royal Military School of Music, Twickenham.

The Water Police

This Unit is composed of 1 N.C.O. and 9 Constables who work under the orders of a Gazetted Officer.

The unit is equipped with a motor launch and its duties consist in maintaining order in the harbour of Port Louis, preventing smuggling and illegal emigration and immigration.

The launch attended 266 ships, as compared with 215 in 1949.

Police Districts

Although geographically the Island is divided into 9 Judicial Districts, for the purpose of Police Administration the Colony is divided into 6 Districts.

A Superintendent is in charge of each Police District and is responsible for the enforcement of law and order in his District.

Forensic Science Laboratory

This important institution of the Force was established in 1938 and maintains a high degree of professional competence. It is under the charge of the Police Medical Officer assisted by a suitably trained staff.

The Forensic Science Laboratory deals with the scientific examination of exhibits, the examination of documents and identification of handwriting and typewriting in relation to cases of forgery and allied offences. It also deals with any other aspect of Police work requiring scientific investigation.

Lectures on medical jurisprudence, first aid and hygiene are regularly delivered by the Medical Officer.

First Aid—St. John's Ambulance Association

Courses of instruction in first aid are given to members of the Police Force, the Railway Department and the Fire Brigade. All lectures are delivered by qualified Medical Officers with the assistance of instructors for practical demonstrations, in accordance with

the regulations of the St. John's Ambulance Brigade Overseas. Examinations were held during the year. 176 members of the Force are now qualified and are holders of the St. John's certificate.

A Mauritius Police division of the St. John's Ambulance Brigade has been formed and registered at the Overseas Headquarters in England.

Games, Recreations and Amenities

As much time as possible is devoted to the playing of games and to recreation generally. The force possesses good football and hockey teams. Inter-district and friendly matches with local teams are frequently played.

The Officers, N.C.Os and Constables each have their own mess and recreation rooms.

A well-stocked canteen is open to all ranks of the Force.

The Police Band contributes to official and semi-official functions in the various messes and institutions of the Force.

A library and reading room is open daily to members of the Force and to public subscribers. Books, reviews and newspapers regularly imported from Europe and America are circulated throughout the Colony among members of the Force posted at out-stations in the country districts.

The stock of English and French books in the library is 12,842.

Firearms

Firearms are rigidly controlled. During the year, 2,183 firearm licences in respect of 5,294 firearms were issued.

Police Reserve of Special Constables

In accordance with Section 53 of the Police Ordinance (16 of 1893), Special Constables may be appointed at any time. With the approval of the Governor, a Police Reserve consisting principally of retired Police and Service Officers, has been sworn-in and is liable to mobilization at any time at short notice. The "Officers" of the Police Reserve are appointed to command Special Constables registered at each District or Police Station area, similar to the Regular Police. The skeleton strength of the Police Reserve is 258 men.

The function of the reserve is to provide a cadre of steady and reliable citizens to augment the regular Police and to release trained Policemen from routine duties in an emergency.

PRISONS AND CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS

The prisons in Mauritius and its dependency, Rodrigues, are under the control of a Superintendent recruited from the United Kingdom who, in addition to his experience in British prisons, was Commissioner of Prisons in Palestine at the termination of the mandate.

In Mauritius the main prison at Beau Bassin, which is one of the residential districts of the island, consists of two modern two-storey blocks of single cells, with water-borne sanitation, and provides accommodation for 800 prisoners under maximum security conditions. Classification is provided by allocating the prisoner, whenever he is not in his cell or in the shops, to the appropriate yard. The average population is just over 400, and there is a further group of 100 prisoners at Port Louis, where the orthopaedic workshops are situated.

New modern accommodation for women prisoners is being constructed in a screened corner of the men's prison and will be occupied in 1951. At present the women prisoners (average 15) are at Port Louis.

Clothing is good and plentiful and, except for night attire, has no distinguishing marks. The diet scales have recently been revised in consultation with the Medical Department, and include green vegetables and fruit from the Prison garden, which extends over 80 acres, protected by an eight-foot wall, outside the main prison. About one hundred prisoners work here daily.

The workshops within the main prison include carpenters, shoemakers, tinsmiths, tailors, basket and rug making shops under trained trade-warders. One example of carpenters' work is a consignment of wooden toys from material supplied by Public Assistance Department for orphans maintained by Government. The preparations against damage by cyclone include the use of organized working parties of prisoners for removal of trees which block roads.

Sick prisoners are treated in a hospital staffed by trained orderlies, but are admitted to a general hospital for specialist treatment. Mental cases are sent to the Mental Hospital adjacent for observation and specialist treatment. Any woman prisoner who is expecting a baby is removed to hospital for the actual birth and also attends there for ante-natal treatment.

Women prisoners are taught embroidery as well as laundry work and mending. They are visited weekly by Sisters of Mercy. There is a trained full time school master on the staff, who conducts three classes each night, and a P.T. instructor, trained by the local Military Headquarters, provides daily compulsory physical training for young volunteers. Men prisoners may also play volley ball, and football. Other privileges include a library with books in French, Hindi and English, sedentary games, and visits from the Mobile Cinema.

There is a Hindu and a Tamil temple, and a place of worship for Roman Catholics. The last analysis showed the following main groups of religious belief: Christians, Moslems, Hindus, Tamils and Buddhists.

There is no corporal punishment in the Prison, Borstal establishment or Industrial School. There has been no capital sentence since 1946: there are no restraints other than handcuffs, (used once in 1949) which are designed to prevent injury by a prisoner to himself. Warders are armed not with firearms but with truncheons.

The remission has recently been revised by one-quarter to one-third sentence to a good conduct prisoner, other privileges too, e.g., letters, visits etc., are on the basis of United Kingdom standards. The Discharged Prisoners Aid Society is under the chairmanship of a lady member of the Legislative Council.

The prison at Rodrigues is, effectively, a lock up with a small area under cultivation one and a half miles away. Any prisoner with a sentence of twelve months and over is sent 250 miles by sea to Mauritius.

There are two types of institutional training at various stages both under the control and supervision of the Superintendent of Prisons. The Industrial School, with an average population during the year of 195, is an institution which corresponds generally to the Approved School in the United Kingdom. The Borstal Institution opened in 1947, average population 56, receives young men between the ages of 16 and 21.

The Industrial School is normally filled to capacity as it includes boys committed as in need of care and protection. Boys under 14 receive normal primary instruction from 3 teachers attached to the junior school: other boys who are illiterate attend school one day a week. Efforts towards rehabilitation include regular daily physical training, inter-house competitions of all kinds, (the School has been recently divided by the Superintendent

into 4 Houses, each with its Captain and Vice-Captain: the Yellow House for boys under 14, having separate dining room and dormitory, regular games for all boys, such as football and volley ball, an extension of the garden and the creation of individual plots, vocational training and instruction under trained staff in the various workshops—carpenter's, tinsmith's, shoemaker's, basket-maker's and cook's. Another influence for good is the School Scout Troop. In addition lectures on such subjects as Forestry, Citizenship, Animal Husbandry and Electricity are given by experts who have offered their services.

In September two groups of seventy boys each, had a week at a seaside camp under canvas. The days were spent in work, clearing and levelling ground, in instructional classes and organized games. Each group enjoyed a sports day.

In addition the Visual Education Officer shows films twice a month, books and periodicals are issued from the School Library; there is a School drum and fife band which accompanies the boys on routes marches.

At the Borstal Institution all boys attend educational classes under a qualified teacher and also receive 6 hours' daily instruction in carpentry, tinsmith, tailoring, basket making, cooking and gardening. All boys perform physical and recreational training under a qualified instructor and reach a high standard of performance.

Self-control is taught by the inclusion of boys in outdoor parties to attend church, to learn swimming and also to play football matches with outside teams. All these concessions have had a satisfactory effect on character. The health of the boys has been good, and they have an appreciation of the rules of hygiene.

Prison statistics for the last five years are as follows:—

| | | | | 1946 | 1947 | 1948 | 1949 | 1950 |
|-----------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Total admission | ... | ... | ... | 2,860 | 2,573 | 2,552 | 2,052 | 1,654 |
| Convicted | ... | ... | ... | 2,028 | 1,973 | 1,943 | 1,656 | 1,385 |
| Death Sentences | ... | ... | ... | 6 | — | 1 | 1 | — |
| Reprieves | ... | ... | ... | 3 | — | 1 | 1 | — |
| Corporal Punishment | ... | ... | ... | — | — | — | — | — |
| Death (excluding execution) | ... | ... | ... | 15 | 10 | 5 | 1 | 1 |
| Escapes | ... | ... | ... | 15 | 15 | 8 | 7 | 5 |

Chapter X—Public Utilities and Public Works

WATER SUPPLIES

Domestic, Irrigation and Hydro-Electric

The water resources of Mauritius depend mainly on the incidence of cyclones passing over the island, or near enough to bring rain. Average rainfall varies from 25 inches in the coastal belt to 150 inches in the super-humid uplands. Rainfall is heaviest in the period December to April. From May to August lighter rains, chiefly up-country, are usually sufficient to maintain the supplies gained during the wet season. In the driest part of the year, from September to November, the flow of water in the rivers dwindles to a negligible amount. It has proved necessary to construct a number of reservoirs to maintain a more stable distribution of water for domestic, irrigation and hydro-electric purposes. Increased consumption on all three counts has led to a post-war development programme which includes the construction of four new reservoirs and the laying of new water mains.

Mare Longue Reservoir of 220 million cubic feet capacity, completed in 1949, was filled to capacity in April. 300 million cubic feet of water were supplied from the Reservoir to the Tamarind Falls Power Station between January and the end of November and a further 26 million cubic feet had been supplied to the end of December. This quantity of water represents about 5,400,000 K.W.H. units generated at the station.

The dam at the head of the Magenta Canal was completed in April and work was started on the canal itself. About two miles of it have now been completed.

The reservoir at the head of the power main at Tamarind Falls which is being constructed by the General Electric Supply Co. Ltd. is nearing completion.

The two new filters for 800,000 gallons per day at La Marie begun last year have been completed and are ready for service. The trunk main for Moka was continued with the laying of 21" pipes from La Marie. A double line of 18" pipes, each line about a mile in length, was laid to replace the old 16" pipes supplying water from Mare-aux-Vacoas Reservoir to La Marie filter beds which had become inadequate in capacity and the output of the pumps pumping water to Curepipe was increased. The laying of a new 10" main from La Marie to Curepipe is in hand. Orders for new pipes and pumps for the continuation of the scheme have been placed.

Work has been continued on the new storage reservoir at Piton du Milieu. The new 8", 6" and 5" trunk mains to the new reservoirs at Goodlands and Plaine des Papayes were put in service and the water supply to the localities served by these two reservoirs has been improved. The pipes for the 18" main from Piton du Milieu Reservoir which will supply Flacq and the Northern Districts have been put on order as well as the other pipes required for the continuation of the scheme.

Buildings

A new ward of forty beds for the Mental Hospital and a third ward for the Civil Hospital were completed.

The abattoir at Flacq has been finished. The Sugarcane Research Station building of the Agricultural Department and the Government School at L'Escalier have been handed over.

Work is proceeding on the new school buildings at Rivière du Rempart, Goodlands, Crève Coeur and Rivière des Anguilles, while additions and improvements to the existing Government schools have been made at Quatre Bornes, Grand River North West, Cassis, Beau Bassin, the Eastern Suburb Government School and the Royal College School.

Roads

Bitumen treatment of 2.36 miles of roads was carried out in the districts of Plaines Wilhems, Black River and Flacq. The enlargement of the road from Tamarind to Black River is in hand. The preliminary survey of the road from Chamarel to Choisy is also under way.

ELECTRICITY

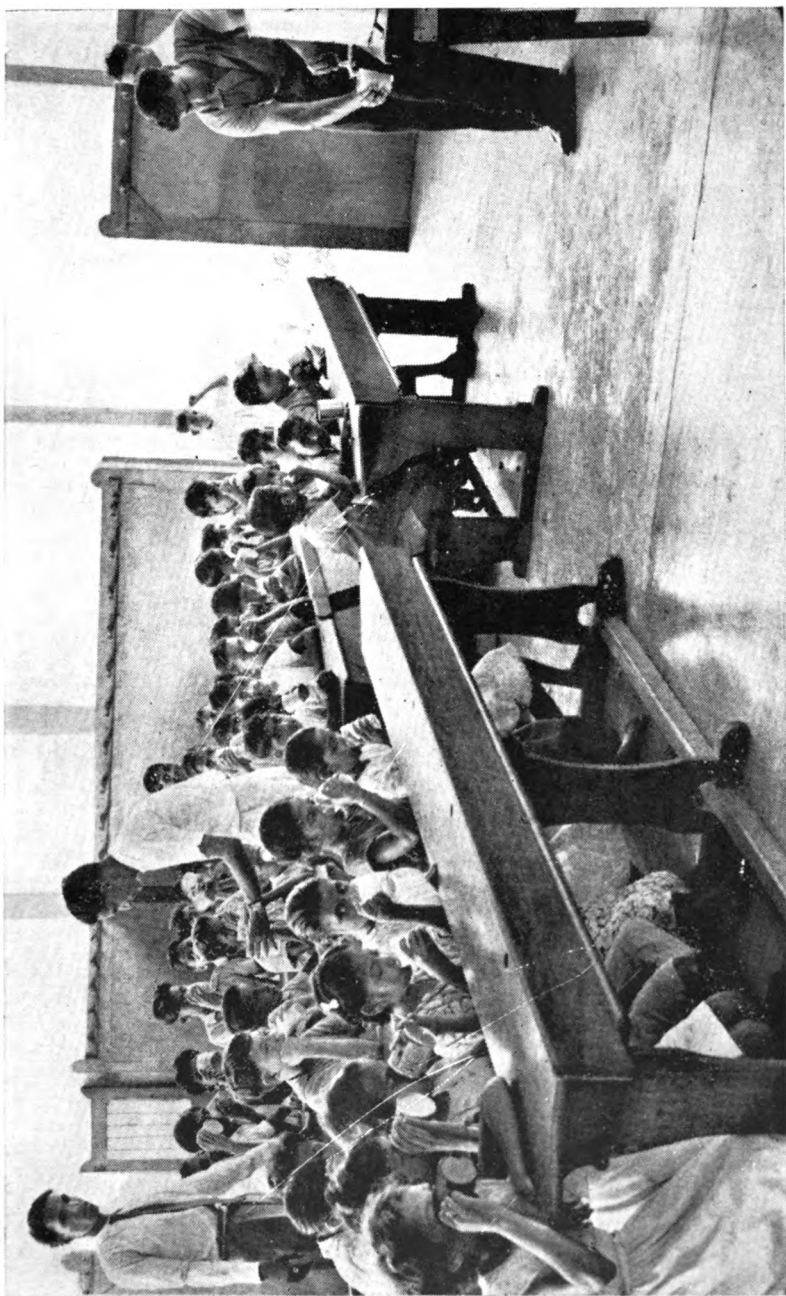
The public electricity supply service of the Colony is operated by four undertakings, including the Government, and the supply is obtained from three privately-owned hydro-electric stations, Tamarind Falls, Réduit Falls and Cecil Falls (Souillac). A bulk supply of energy is purchased from the Tamarind Station for use in the Government's undertaking. About 85% of the Colony's requirements are obtained from the Tamarind Station which is owned by the General Electric Supply Company. During the past three years, restrictions in the use of electricity have had to be enforced, due to insufficient generating plant and the inadequate supply of water available for hydro-electric purposes. These restrictions must continue to be applied, until an increased supply becomes available.

The stations at Réduit and Souillac have already reached their peak development, but at the Tamarind Station work is in hand to increase its capacity from 5,000 to 8,000 kilowatts. This work involves:—

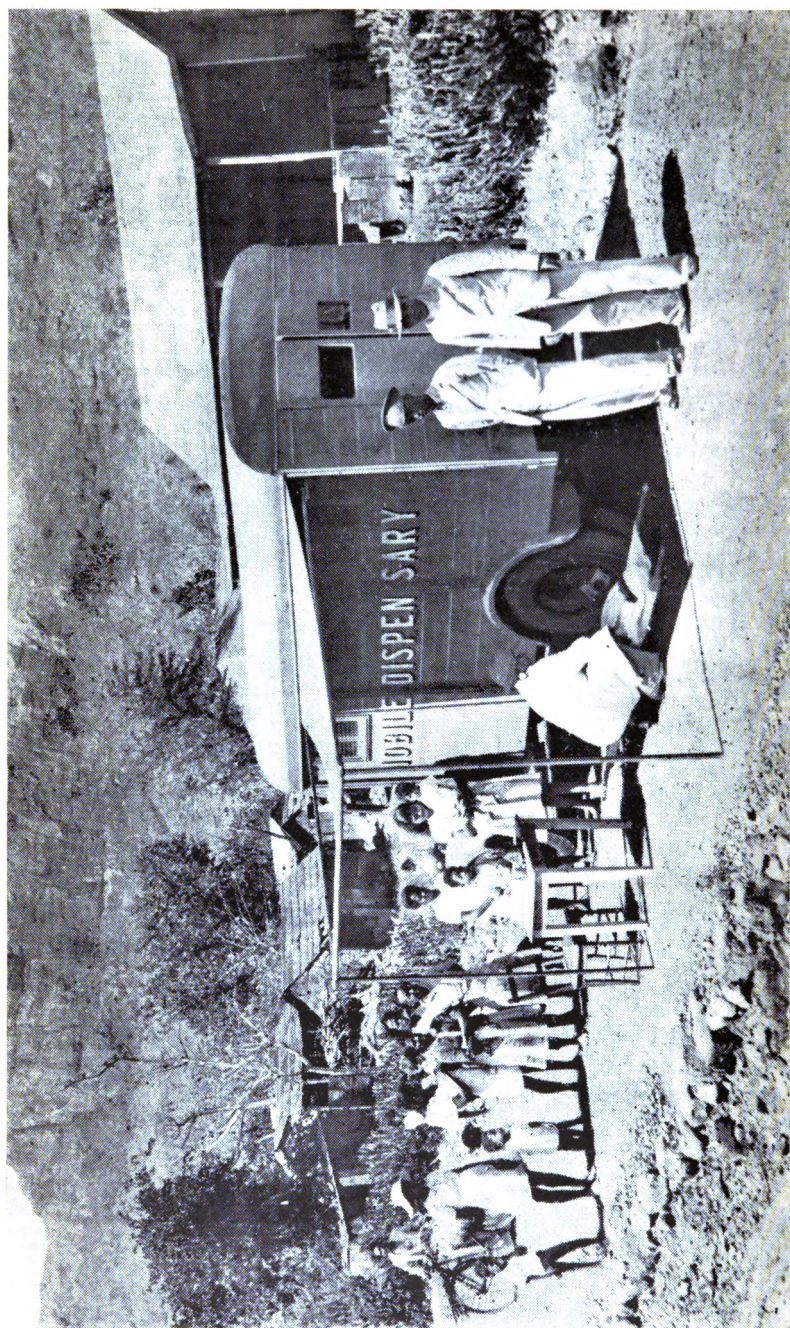
- (a) The construction of a new dam to increase the capacity of the General Electric Supply Company's water storage works, from one million to seventy-two million cubic feet.
- (b) The installation of a new pipe-line from the new dam to a new surge tank, which is to be erected at the head of the falls.
- (c) The installation of a new turbo-alternator of 3,000 kilowatts capacity, at the Tamarind Station.
- (d) The construction of an irrigation canal (Magenta Canal) from the Tamarind river, at a point below the power station site, to certain parts of the Black River area. On the completion of this work the quantity of water which is at present sent direct from the Mare-aux-Vacoas reservoir to the La Ferme irrigation reservoir and therefore, is not available for hydro-electric purposes, will be diverted through the Tamarind Station before being used for irrigation.

Work on the dam and the Magenta Canal is now well in hand but the new turbo-alternator and additional pipe-line, although ordered a few years ago have not yet reached the Colony. This plant is, however, expected to arrive during 1951 and it is hoped that, by the end of that year, installation work will have advanced sufficiently to permit some easing of the restrictions in the use of electricity by the public. On the completion of the development works, referred to above, it is estimated that the output of the Tamarind Station will reach a figure of 25 million units in a normal year. The output of the Tamarind Station during the year was 17,121,438 units.

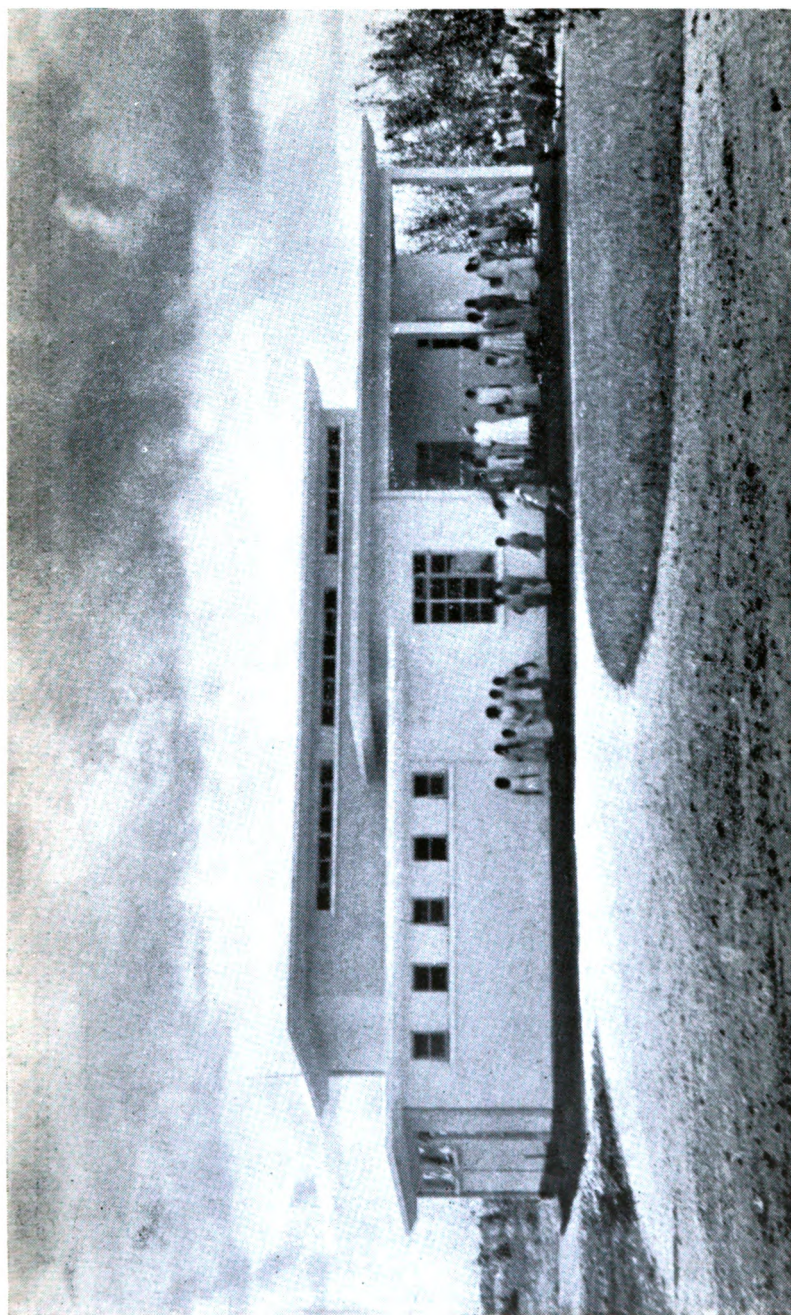
The number of units generated at the combined power stations during the year was 20,760,000 an increase of 3,260,000 units on last year's figure. The number of units purchased from the Tamarind Station for use in the Government undertaking was 7,196,020, an increase of 1,282,723 on last year's figure.



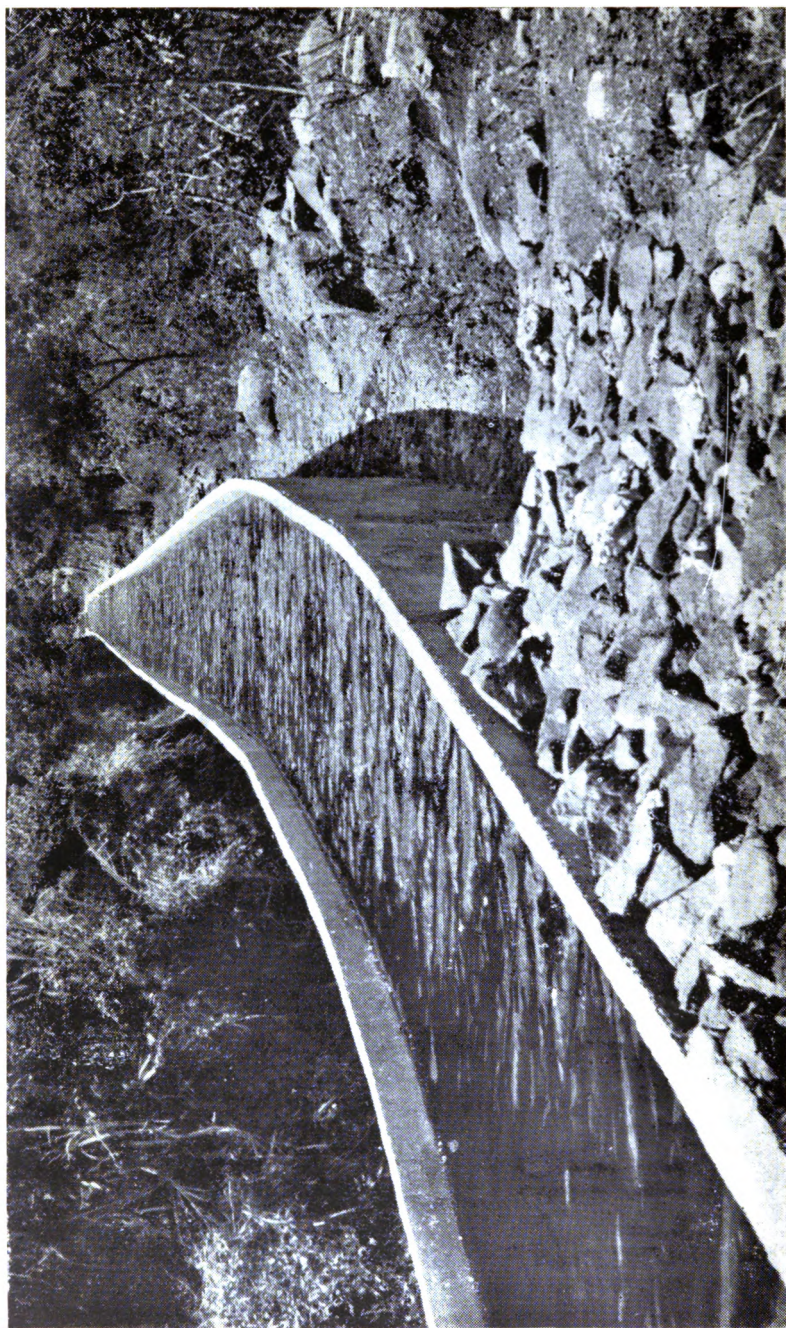
MILK DISTRIBUTION—PLAINES DES PAPAYES SCHOOL



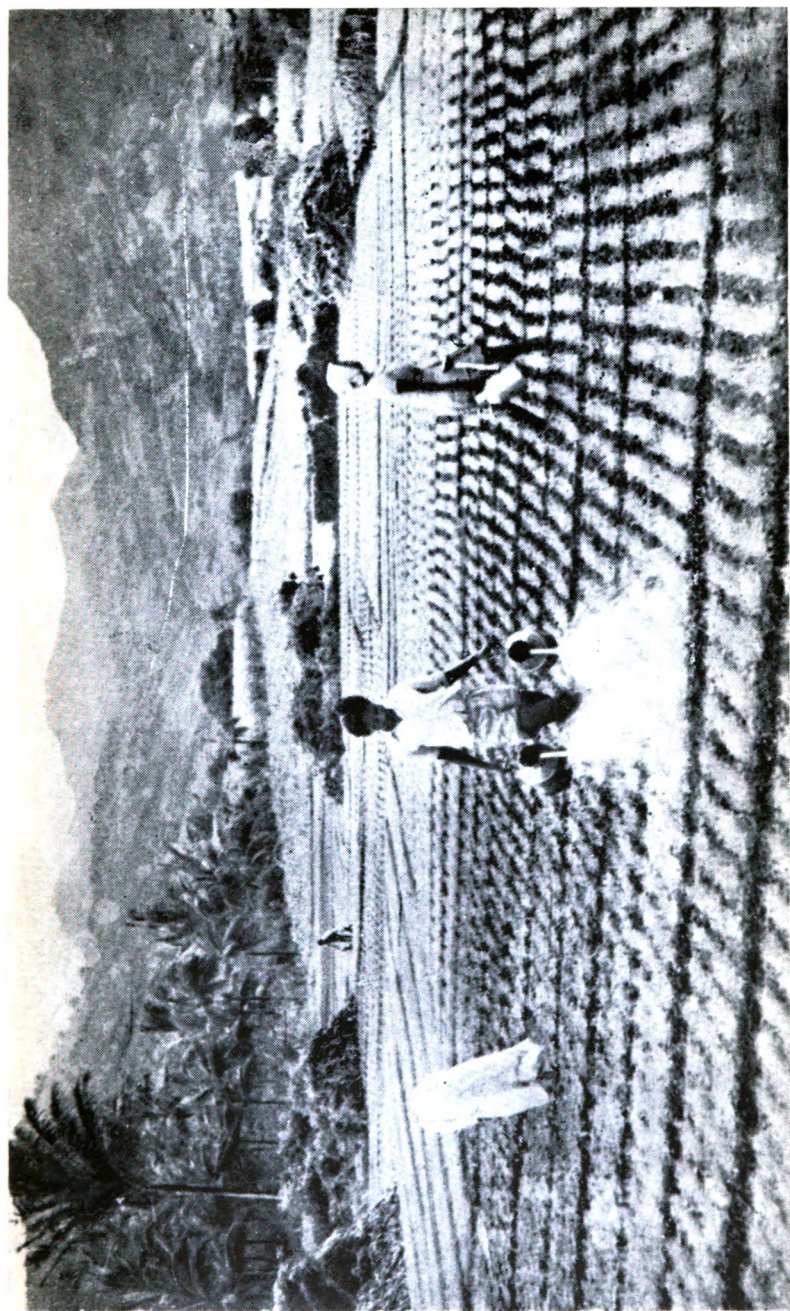
MOBILE DISPENSARIES CATER FOR PATIENTS WHO LIVE TOO FAR FROM GOVERNMENT DISPENSARIES



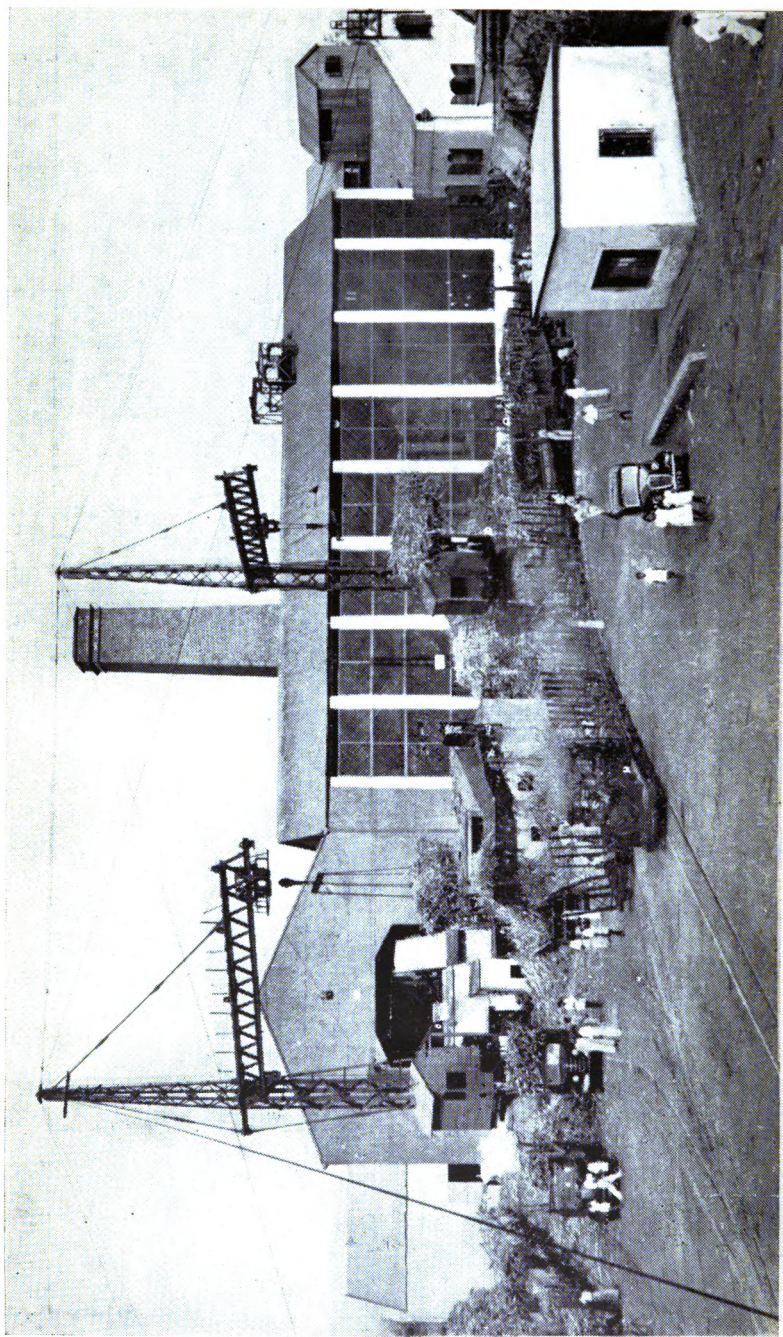
A SOCIAL WELFARE CENTRE AT CAMP FOUQUEREAUX, PLAINE WILHEMS DISTRICT



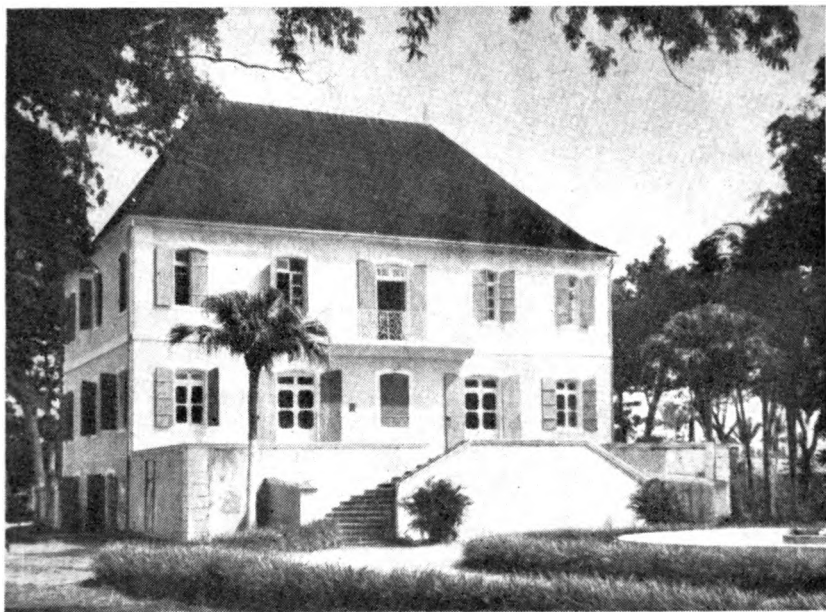
A DOWNSTREAM VIEW OF THE MAGENTA CANAL WHICH, ON COMPLETION, WILL IRRIGATE 2,500 ACRES
OF LAND IN THE BLACK RIVER DISTRICT, ONE OF THE DRIEST IN THE COUNTRY



ONION PLANTING AT GRAND SABLE



BEAU CHAMP SUGAR FACTORY, ONE OF THE BIGGEST IN THE EAST OF THE ISLAND



OLD FRENCH COUNTRY HOUSE NEAR MAHEBOURG NOW USED AS
A HISTORICAL MUSEUM



PORT LOUIS TOWN HALL

TELEPHONES

The demand for telephone services continued to be heavy. Extensions were effected to some of the manual exchange switchboards and additional, underground, subscribers' cables were laid in certain areas. As a result of this work it was possible to connect 404 new subscribers to the system. Due to a shortage of plant facilities, however, it was impossible to meet all demands for new services and there are still a fairly large number of potential subscribers on the waiting list. The number of telephones in service at the close of the year was 4,758, an increase of 492 on the 1949 total. The number of telephone calls made over the system was 4,166,697, an increase of 849,122 on the previous year's figure.

BROADCASTING

Government Broadcasting Services continued to develop steadily during the year. The daily transmission time, with programmes in English, French, Hindustani, Chinese and Ki-Sawihili, averaged $7\frac{1}{2}$ hours, a 45 minute increase over 1949. 15 minutes were added to the bi-weekly Chinese half-hour programme. The number of Radio licences rose from 6,934 in 1949 to 8,720 at the end of the year. During the last two years new radio licences have been issued at the rate of a little under two thousand per year.

The transmissions continued to be broadcast on two wavelengths. Reports received by the Mauritius Broadcasting Service from Chagos Archipelago, Madagascar, East and South Africa, gave encouraging evidence, both of the interest aroused among Mauritians overseas by the short wave transmissions and of the satisfactory reception in each of these areas. Home listeners were served by the 5 K.W. Medium Wave transmitter. Field tests of this transmitter, carried out during the year, showed that certain outlying areas in the southern and eastern parts of the island were unsatisfactorily covered by the transmissions, owing to screening by mountain ranges. These technical difficulties will be overcome when the Murray report is implemented.

The visit to Mauritius, of Mr. John W. Murray, Assoc. I.E.E., Assoc. Brit. I.R.E., Broadcasting Engineer, Information Department, Northern Rhodesia, was arranged by the Colonial Office, in order to advise on the technical improvement of the M.B.S. Further valuable assistance from the Colonial Office took the form of a provision of Rs. 200,000 from the Colonial Development and Welfare Fund, for the development of Broadcasting in Mauritius. Mr. Murray recommended the erection of separate buildings for

housing the transmitter studios and office. Unfortunately the pressure of work on the Mauritius Government Architect's office makes it unlikely that plans will be ready before 1952. The expenditure for the implementation of the recommendation was estimated by Mr. Murray at Rs. 415,000. The Legislative Council voted the balance of Rs. 215,000.

With the object of meeting the increasing demand which is being made on broadcasting services, as a result of the steady rise in the number of listeners, an important reorganisation of the Programme Staff establishment took place on the 1st of July. The new Scheme provides for the creation of three full-time permanent posts, i.e., Talks Producer, Musical Producer, and Indian Programme Organiser, and the employment of Announcers on a fee basis.

The installation of new equipment, including additional turntables and up to date amplifiers, helped to improve the efficiency of the Broadcasting Service. The introduction of new features such as literary programmes on Mauritius literature, literary quizzes, a children's half-hour and programmes presented by the Representative of the British Council, formed a valuable addition to the broadcasts.

An increasing number of recordings of local events, and of outside broadcasts in connection with official and other occasions were made. Running commentaries on sporting events remained exceedingly popular.

A number of distinguished personalities came to the microphone during the year. His Excellency Sir Hilary Blood, K.C.M.G., Governor of Mauritius, addressed the people of Mauritius from the M.B.S. studio on four occasions, and seven of the speeches made at official functions by H.E. were relayed or recorded for broadcast. Other speakers of note were Commander Bishop, H.M. Consul General for Madagascar and Reunion and Captain Hilken, commander of H.M.S. *Mauritius*. Broadcasts were also given by Maurice Bedel and Max Pol Fouchet, French writers and lecturers, Robert Guillon, Director of Radio Tananarive, François Trévou, French economist and the pianist, Mlle. Suzanne Roche. Mr. John A. Thivy, who succeeded Mr. Dharam Yash Dev as Commissioner for India in Mauritius in September, spoke in the General Programme on one occasion.

Valuable additions to the M.B.S. gramophone record library were received from the B.B.C., the French Radio, United Nations and Radio Tananarive. The regular inflow of B.B.C. records form the mainstay of the library. The Broadcasting Advisory Board met three times to discuss the scheme for reorganising the programme staff establishment and the adoption of Mr. Murray's report. The News Branch of the M.B.S. continued to supply the local press, Government departments, and members of the Legislative Council with Globe Reuter News, 115 copies of which were issued daily. Members of the public were invited through the local press to take advantage of this service on a subscription basis ; the response was insufficient to justify the increased expenditure which this would have entailed. At the time of writing, the change-over to the automatic reception had not taken place, as the London Press Service and African Globe Reuter were still being transmitted for oral reception.

GOVERNMENT FIRE SERVICES

In 1943, the independent fire fighting units owned by the Port Louis Municipality and the Township Boards of Curepipe, Rose Hill and Quatre Bornes were united in the Civil Defence organisation, and an additional station was established at Mahebourg. After the war the Port Louis Brigade was returned to the care of the Municipality. The other stations are still grouped together under the title of Government Fire Services. This organisation is responsible for fire protection throughout the Island, excepting the area within the Port Louis Municipal limits. Government acquired for Rs. 75,443 the machines and equipment which had formerly belonged to the Township Boards. Action was initiated to replace the Defence (Fire Fighting Control) Regulations by permanent legislation and to extend the organisation of the Service into the North and East of the Island.

The Fire Service now constitutes four Stations, situated in Curepipe, Rose Hill, Quatre Bornes and Mahebourg. A start was made on the building of additional stations at Rivière des Anguilles in the South, and at Piton in the North ; the latter project was delayed by difficulties in acquiring suitable land on which to erect a station and quarters for the men. The possibility of establishing yet another station in Flacq District is still being examined.

The establishment of the Service is 1 Controller (Commissioner of Police), an Administrative Officer and clerical staff, 1 Chief Officer, 2 station officers, 8 sub-officers and 78 firemen.

There are on charge 6 fire engines, 11 large and 4 small trailer pumps, 2 cars, 3 towing units, 2 vans, 1 motor cycle and 5 bicycles.

126 fire calls were answered during the year, as compared with 112 in 1949. The total damage caused by fires was estimated at Rs. 340,000 as against Rs. 120,000 last year. The mileage covered by the appliances, on all services, was 13,772 miles, compared with 11,329 miles in 1949.

The supply and pressure of water is generally satisfactory in the Plaines Wilhems district, but in the North, water is often scarce, particularly in the dry months before December. This is a grave handicap in fire fighting operations, particularly when dealing with sugarcane fires and those involving thatched huts.

2,467 hydrants were inspected and tested, and a number of new points installed in the districts of Grand Port, Moka and Central Plaines Wilhems.

Nineteen cinema halls were regularly inspected, and the fire appliances in fifteen Government departments and on four harbour tugs periodically tested. Arrangements were also made to supply extinguishers for government buildings in Rodrigues.

Chapter XI—Communications

SHIPPING

During the financial year ended 30th June, 1950, 231 vessels, amounting to 808,999 net register tons of shipping, entered Port Louis harbour, an increase of 24 vessels, or 121,553 net tons over the preceding year. Of the 231 ships, vessels registered in the Colony entered 41 times, 14 entered for bunkers only and 12 were non-commercial vessels.

The harbour can accommodate ships drawing up to 30 feet of water and of 530 feet maximum length.

During 1949-50 the harbour dues paid by shipping amounted to Rs. 822,886, an increase of Rs. 316,024 over the figures for 1948-49. The harbour dues are exclusive of dues paid on cargo, handled at the Government quays.

Shipping services have returned to normal so far as cargo vessels are concerned, but passenger services are still irregular. The need for an adequate passenger ship service to and from South African ports still exists. Facilities for ship travel to and from India and Australia are infrequent.

RAILWAYS

On account of the shortage of engines in good condition, the Railway Department has taken advantage of the reduction in passenger traffic to curtail the passenger train services, in order to be able to transport the Colony's record sugar crop.

In the months of September and October the factory artisans and dockers went on strike and the train services had to be reduced until normal working was resumed.

As a short term policy for the Railways, a drastic reduction in the passenger services has been recommended by the Adviser on Inland Transport to the Secretary of State, during his visit to the Colony.

The Sans Souci factory remained closed throughout the year and the removal of a part of the Moka line will now have to be considered.

The lorries purchased for the Black River experimental road service have reached the Colony and from the 23rd October have been used to carry the whole of the output of Medine Factory. Additional lorries have been ordered to cope with the anticipated increase of output of this sugar estate.

PASSENGER ROAD TRANSPORT

The Colony is well served with over 700 miles of road, approximately 250 miles of which are main tarred roads.

— There are 4,940 motor vehicles in use in the island, compared with 4,380 in 1949 and 3,130 in 1940, classified as follows:—

| | 1940 | 1949 | 1950 |
|------------------|-------|-------|------------------------------------|
| Private cars ... | 2,031 | 2,521 | 2,788 (includes 52 jeeps and vans) |
| Lorries ... | 402 | 870 | 1,039 |
| Taxi cars ... | 338 | 519 | 608 |
| Buses ... | 137 | 182 | 186 |
| Motor Cycles ... | 222 | 212 | 233 |
| Tractors ... | -- | 76 | 86 |

In addition there are 221 Government owned vehicles of all types.

Taxi cars, for hire in Port Louis and in the principal towns, are of modern type and kept in good condition as regards safety and cleanliness ; the charges for hire (which may be made by telephone) are 35 cents per mile during the day and 40 cents per mile during the night.

There is a bus service between Port Louis, Vacoas and Curepipe calling at the intermediary principal towns of Plaines Wilhems, and subsidiary lines of less importance, (there are 30 approved Bus Routes in the Colony) which radiate from the main system to every town and village in the island. The fare is approximately 3 cents per mile.

Lorries are used for the transport of imported foodstuffs from Port Louis to other towns and villages ; for the transport of sugarcane to the factories and of all other goods produced in the Colony with the exception of sugar, which, with heavy goods and imported fertilizers, is compulsorily transported by the Railway.

The annual licence duties payable in respect of motor vehicles are as follows:—

| | Rs. |
|--|------------|
| (a) Motor Cycles | 6 per H.P. |
| (b) Private Cars | 8 „ |
| (c) (i) Taxi cars not exceeding 10H.P. | 108 |
| (ii) For every additional H.P. | 8 per H.P. |
| (d) (i) Motor buses having a seating capacity for not more than 20 passengers of not more than 10H.P. | 512 |
| (ii) For every additional H.P. | 8 per H.P. |
| (e) (i) Motor lorries not exceeding 10H.P.... .. | 200 |
| (ii) For every additional H.P. | 8 per H.P. |
| (iii) per metric ton of maximum gross weight or fraction thereof | 40 |

Public Service and goods vehicles are licensed quarterly at proportional rates. Licence duty in respect of motor cycles and private cars may be effected quarterly, half-yearly or yearly at the owner's option.

Visitors' licences at the following rates are payable in respect of privately owned motor cars and motor cycles belonging to persons on a temporary visit to the Colony not exceeding three months:—

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Private Cars | Rs. 10 per month irrespective of Horse Power |
| Motor Cycles | Rs. 2 „ „ |

No licence fee is charged on a privately owned car or motor cycle landed in the Colony for a short stay not exceeding one week.

The price of petrol has decreased slightly during the year, the cost per gallon, exclusive of container, being Rs. 2.04, equivalent to approximately 3 shillings.

AIR

During the year 86 civil planes called at Mauritius of which 83 belonged to Scheduled Services, run exclusively by Air France. 2,090 passengers travelled inwards and 2,059 outwards. While this number constituted about 45% of the total passenger traffic by sea and air, 73% of the passenger traffic by air was to or from the neighbouring islands of Madagascar and Reunion. The remaining traffic was mostly to British East Africa, France and the British Isles.

Altogether, 41 tons of commercial freight were carried (excluding 93 tons of luggage and diplomatic mail) and 17 tons of post office mail. The inwards mail was slightly more than twice the outwards mail.

An R.A.F. Lincoln (the "Aries") which left Manby Aerodrome, England, on the 20th of October, arrived at Plaisance Airport on the 22nd ; after the aircraft had been refuelled, she took off for Pearce Aerodrome (near Perth) Australia the same day. This was the first non-stop flight across the Indian Ocean from Mauritius to Australia. The distance was covered in 18 hours and Plaisance airport kept in touch with the aircraft throughout the flight.

On the 23rd of July a York aircraft belonging to Eagle Aviation Limited took off from Amsterdam, landed at Plaisance on the 25th July with a complete propeller tailshaft weighing 6½ tons for a cargo ship which lost her propeller a few hundred miles off Mauritius and was towed to Port Louis harbour.

The new terminal building for the use of incoming and outgoing passengers will be opened in 1951.

POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS

The activities of the Post Office continued on about the same general level as for 1949. Postal traffic, notably parcel post received from the United Kingdom, showed some increase which was offset to a small extent by a decline in inland and foreign telegraph traffic.

At the end of the year there were 40 Post Offices and 38 Postal Agencies in operation, including the Post Office on Rodrigues Island. During the year one Postal Agency was raised to the status of a Post Office. No new Postal Agency was opened.

The staff employed at 31st December, 1950, totalled 302, comprised as follows :—

| | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Postmaster General | 12 Postal Clerks |
| Assistant Postmaster General | 113 Postal Officers |
| Accountant | 105 Postmen |
| Postal Controller | 3 Drivers |
| 2 Typists | 21 Telegraph Messengers |
| 2 Senior Postmasters | 40 Postal Agents |

Postal Clerks are employed on administrative and accounting duties at Headquarters. Postal Officers perform counter duties and telegraph and mail work at Post Offices. Postal Officers undergo a course of training in telegraphy and all aspects of their work, before being posted to an office. Postal Officers in charge of Post Offices in charge of Post Offices are addressed as Postmasters.

Improvements were effected in the distribution of mail and the delivery of correspondence, throughout the Island, by the extension of the use of motor mail van services, to supplement the railway services. A twice daily delivery of correspondence is carried out at almost all parts of the Island.

No new activity was undertaken by the Post Office during the year, but a considerable amount of preparatory work was carried out in connection with the transfer of the control of the Government Savings Bank from the Accountant General to the Postmaster General. The Government Savings Bank will be inaugurated as the Post Office Savings Bank on the 1st January, 1951.

A complete new issue of stamps of pictorial design was placed on sale on the 1st July, in replacement of the former issue bearing the effigy of His Majesty King George VI. The new stamps comprised fifteen denominations, each denomination being of a different design, portraying views of Mauritius or illustrating its traditions. The issue proved popular and there was an appreciably heavy demand for the stamps. Stamp sales for the year amounted to Rs. 962,757 as compared with the figure of Rs. 849,900 for 1949.

The air mail link with the rest of the world, provided by the Air France Service between Mauritius and Europe, was improved by the increase in the service from one flight weekly to two flights. The services are speedy and air mail transit time to Europe averages little more than three days.

The General Post Office at Port Louis, the principal Post Office of the Island, was redecorated and modernised. A number of improvements were carried out in departmental methods, both as regards service to the public at the counter, and in sorting office and delivery arrangements.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Mauritius is linked to the rest of the world by cables and by wireless installations which are maintained and operated by Cable and Wireless Limited. The Company maintains a cable station and a wireless station at Port Louis, and a cable station and an emergency wireless installation on the island of Rodrigues.

The Government of Mauritius operates a ship-to-shore radio coast station which can communicate with ships within a radius which varies between 600 and 1,200 miles from Mauritius, according to atmospheric conditions.

Foreign telegrams and radio telegrams are accepted at all the principal Post Offices.

Chapter XII—Cultural and Scientific Organisations

THE MAURITIUS INSTITUTE

The project for the foundation of an Institute in Mauritius first took shape in 1880 when an Ordinance was passed, with the active support of the Governor, Sir George Bowen, "to establish and incorporate a Public Institute: a Public Museum and a Public Library, for the purpose of promoting the general study and cultivation of the various branches and departments of Art, Science, Literature and Philosophy, and for the instruction and recreation of the people."

The first stone was laid by Sir George Bowen on the 23rd November, 1880 and the Natural History collections, bequeathed to the Colony by Julien Desjardins, were transferred to

the new building, from the old Royal College, in 1885. The Public Library was opened in 1903, following the munificent bequest of Sir Virgile Naz's library which formed the nucleus of the present collections.

To-day, the Institute comprises a Public Library, a Natural History Museum and an Art Gallery; in addition the following Scientific Societies are incorporated with the Institute: "The Royal Society of Arts and Sciences," the *Société des Chimistes et des Techniciens des Industries Agricoles*, the *Société Médicale*, and the "Indian Cultural Association."

The administration of the Institute is assisted by a Board of Directors, appointed annually by the Governor, including four members appointed on the recommendation of the incorporated Societies. A Library Committee and a Museum Committee are set up each year to manage the affairs of the Library and Museum respectively.

The Museum is opened daily to the public except on Sundays and Public Holidays, admission free from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and was visited during the course of the year by approximately 70,000 people.

The Public Library

The stock comprises more than 32,000 volumes almost equally divided between French and English. The Library has a large, valuable collection of Mauritiana and a reference section on the natural history of the Mascarene Islands and neighbouring regions. More than seventy-five periodicals are received annually. The Library is free to readers but a deposit of Rs. 10 is required from borrowers. The valuable support of the British Council has resulted in important accessions to the Library from time to time and it is owing to the Council's generosity that it has been possible to make much needed additions to the periodicals both of technical and general interest.

The Natural History Museum

The Natural History Museum is local in character and every effort is being made to assemble as complete material as possible of the fauna and flora of the Mascarene Islands and the surrounding ocean. A reserve collection is being gradually built up for research workers and the exhibited sections are being devised on educational and ecological standpoints.

In the avian section there are two skeletons of the Dodo, one of the Solitaire from Rodrigues, and one of the flightless Red Hen (*Aphanapteryx*), as well as a complete collection of the endemic birds of Mauritius, including the extinct Dutch Pigeon (*Alectroenas nitidissima*).

A special case is devoted to the fauna of Round Island, a small islet 12 miles north of Mauritius.

There are now on view advanced collections of Crustacea, Echinodermata and Mollusca both land and marine. A collection of tropical fish, many painted in their natural colours is also noteworthy.

The Botanical section includes a herbarium of over 4,000 sheets of specimens from Mauritius, Rodrigues and some of the small Indian Ocean Islands. Native and exotic timber specimens are displayed and a special section is devoted to diseases and pests of economic plants.

Maritime and Historical Museum

A subsidiary museum related to local events has now been opened in the *Maison Historique* at Mahebourg, where the two wounded commanders of the British and French squadrons were received during the naval battle of Grand Port in August 1810.

The building is a two-storied house, consisting of five large rooms, in which the exhibits have been displayed. In the two front rooms of the ground floor are found a number of objects recovered by Mr. H. C. M. Austen, C.B.E., in January 1934, from the wreck of one of the English frigates, the *Magicienne*, sunk in the Bay of Mahebourg during the Grand Port battle.

Among the objects are several 12-pounder guns, 24-pounder carronades, canon balls, grape-shot, rudder braces in solid copper, pieces of sailor's uniform with buttons still attached, copper coins, old bottles, and various smaller relics. Part of the hulk of the *Magicienne*, showing the wooden structure, the copper sheathing and some of the draught plates in roman figures is exhibited. The details of the construction of the frigate and of another English frigate also lost in the battle, the "Sirius," can be seen on plans supplied by the Admiralty. Reproductions of old prints and engravings show some phases of the engagement and the leading personalities connected with it. A noteworthy exhibit is a large relief map (9": 1 mile) of the bay of Grand Port with small model ships illustrating the site of the battle.

The important activities of the French privateers, who used the Isle de France as a base at the beginning of the 19th Century, are illustrated by some exhibits from the East Indiaman "Kent." This ship was captured by Robert Surcouf, the *Roi des Corsaires*, in the Bay of Bengal in October 1800 and the following objects related to the event have been preserved; desk of the Commander of the "Kent" (Captain Rivington), his sword, dagger and telescope, together with Surcouf's pistol and the sword of Captain Drieux who led the boarding party from the French ship *La Confiance*. The log-book of the "Kent," which belongs to a private collector, has also been loaned to the Museum. A large portrait of Surcouf is hung on the wall.

The capture of the island by the British at the beginning of December 1810 is illustrated by a series of eight coloured prints by R. Temple. An oil painting of the last French Governor, General Decaen, as well as a large bowl which belonged to him are also to be seen.

A recent odyssey of the sea, which ended in Mauritius, is commemorated by maps and objects from the British steamer, the *Trevessa*, which foundered between Australia and Mauritius, at 1,610 miles from the latter, in June 1923. The crew, numbering 44, abandoned ship in two life-boats, one of which reached Rodrigues and the other Mauritius after 22-25 days, eight lives being lost on the way.

In the same section of the museum are exhibited two flags presented to Mauritius by the officers and ship's company of H.M.S. *Mauritius*: (1) an Italian flag captured by the British Regiment, the Green Howards, at Melilli, Sicily, in July 1943 when fire support was provided by the *Mauritius* for the final assault of the stronghold: (2) the white ensign flown by the same cruiser during the Sicilian campaign.

Another portion of the room is devoted to the history of transport in Mauritius, exemplified, for the time being, by two *palanquins* and a *chaise à porteurs*, which were in use before the era of roads and wheeled traffic.

The stairs leading to the first floor open into a long hall at the end of which have been grouped some pieces of furniture which belonged to the famous French Governor of the island, Mahé de Labourdonnais (1699-1753): a bed, an arm-chair and a glazed armoire. In this cupboard have been placed a drinking glass, which also belonged to Labourdonnais, and examples of "willow"

patterned china imported into Mauritius by the French East India Company at the same period. The recess devoted to these exhibits is decorated with a reproduction of a seventeenth century Gobelins tapestry and a portrait of Mahé de Labourdonnais. On the walls of this room are displayed a series of old engravings related to Bernardin de St. Pierre's celebrated novel "Paul and Virginia," a legend placed during the time of Mahé de Labourdonnais.

Adjoining the Labourdonnais exhibits is a spacious room in which are exhibited, in their proper sequence, a valuable collection of maps, charts, engravings and water-colours, many original, endeavouring to illustrate the various periods of the history of Mauritius from its discovery to the present time. Worthy of special mention in this section are: a portulan map published at Amsterdam in 1595, probably the most accurate map of the region available at the time of the first Dutch visit to Mauritius in 1598; an English map of Mauritius by Mount and Page published in 1745, derived from a Dutch source; Abbé de la Caille's map (1753), the first accurate map of the Island; Bellin's map of 1763, based on the foregoing; two maps by the Creole hydrographer, Lislet Geoffroy, published by the English Admiralty in 1813 and 1814. Modern maps are also shown including the fine one-inch map by Descubes (1880) which is of great practical interest as it indicates the site of over a thousand cancelled lands.

Among the series of lithographs and water-colours recording the life, scenery and customs of the period, the following may be specially noted: six water-colours by Kelsey (early 1840's), coloured prints by Thuillier, coloured lithographs by Bradshaw and Rider (1831-32), water-colours by Leroy (1860's), and a water-colour panoramic view of Mauritius, sketched from the Port Louis harbour by Augustus Earle who was on board the "Beagle" when Charles Darwin visited Mauritius in 1836.

A small section is devoted to the history of the famous "post office" stamp of Mauritius (1847) and is illustrated by reprints of the stamps concerned.

Research

The richness and variety of marine life in the surrounding seas, together with the very interesting remnants of the indigenous land fauna and flora, present excellent opportunities for research in pure economic and marine biology, and the collections of the museum form a valuable basis for investigations in these fields.

In recent years research work, in conjunction with institutions and workers overseas, has continued to develop, mainly on marine and land mollusca, crustaceans, insects and reptiles. Investigations on the systematics and ecology of the vegetation of Mauritius are in progress.

Publications

The Mauritius Institute publishes an Annual Report and a Bulletin devoted to the original papers on the fauna and flora of the Mascarene region to which many experts, working in Institutions overseas, have contributed. The first part was published in 1936 and Part II of the third volume is in press. Copies of the parts still in print may be obtained on application to the Director, Mauritius Institute, Port Louis.

SOCIETIES INCORPORATED WITH THE MAURITIUS INSTITUTE

(1) *The Royal Society of Arts and Sciences of Mauritius*. This Society which was founded in 1829 under the title of *Société d'Histoire Naturelle*, was honoured with a Royal Charter in 1847. Its activities extend to most branches of natural history ; science and art lectures are delivered by its members and also by visitors of mark under its auspices. A catalogue of the library, which contains many rare and valuable books on natural history, was published in 1945. Annual proceedings are published containing papers read before the Society.

(2) *Société Médicale de l'Ile Maurice*. The Society was founded in 1880 and includes among its members most of the medical practitioners of the Colony.

(3) *Société des Chimistes et des Techniciens des Industries Agricoles*. Formerly known as the *Société des Chimistes*, the Society has been recently reorganised and broadened by the inclusion of all engineers and technicians engaged in the sugar industry.

The Society is a technical body studying all questions relating to the growth of sugarcane and the manufacture of cane sugar. The papers and proceedings of the Society are published in the bi-monthly *Revue Agricole*.

(4) *Société des Ecrivains Mauriciens*. Founded in 1938 with the object of encouraging the publication of literary works, of establishing contact with similar institutions overseas, and of maintaining unity among Mauritian writers. This Society was incorporated with the Institute in 1949.

(5) *The Indian Cultural Association*. Established in April 1936 with the object of promoting Indian Culture in Mauritius and of fostering spiritual ties with India.

The Society was incorporated with the Institute in 1950.

THE MAURITIUS ARCHIVES

The Mauritius Archives Office is not only one of the oldest departments of this colony, dating, in point of fact, from the early years of the French settlement, but also one of the oldest archive centres of the Southern Hemisphere, ranking only after the Cape and Reunion repositories.

Under French rule the Office was a branch of the *Conseil Supérieur* and received special attention from the authorities. An early instance of the interest of the French Government in colonial archives is provided by the edict of 1770, which set up a central *Dépôt des Chartes des Colonies* at Versailles and enacted regulations for their better preservation. Another important measure was the establishment here in 1808 of a *Dépôt des Chartes de la Marine* which for a long time supplied sailors and travellers in the South Indian Ocean with valuable information.

At the time of the British conquest the local archives were removed from Port Louis to a safer place of custody in Plaines Wilhems and thus escaped damage. In 1815, after the final cession of Mauritius to England, they were handed over to the British authorities in an almost complete state, comparatively few of the records being retained by the French Government.

From 1922 until the end of 1949 the Archives have been attached to the Registrar General's Department. On the 1st January, 1950, the Archives again became an independent organisation as a section of the Central Administration.

The Archives Office to-day is divided into the following sections :—

(a) *Administrative section* including two distinct record groups: (1) those of the old French administration dating from 1721, of which the most valuable are those of the republican Colonial Assemblies (1790–1803) and those relative to naval history, (2) those of the British administration from 1810 to 1860; these include the Secretariat files and the records of a few departments. It is proposed to take over all departmental records down to 1902, to which date public access to official records was extended recently by the Secretary of State, but this cannot be done until an extension of accommodation is provided.

(b) *Domainial or Land section* including the archives of the former Land Court (1767–1832), applications for grants of land, title-deeds of concessions and their grants of land, shooting and fishing leases, documents concerning Crown Lands, mountain reserves, canals and rivers, notarial deeds, and memoranda of survey drawn up by land-surveyors. The last two are deposited under ordinances dating from the 18th century. Most of the records in this section date from the early years of the French settlement in Mauritius.

Judicial section including (1) records of the old French courts of which there are quite a number, (2) those of the British courts which replaced them after 1810. These records are of great interest to the lawyer and the student of history.

(d) *Civil status section* including duplicate civil status registers for Port Louis from 1721 onwards and for the rural districts from 1721 to 1830. The original registers for Port Louis are kept in the Central Civil Status Office and those for the rural districts of later date than 1830 in the district Magistracies. This section also includes documents relative to slaves, previous to the abolition of slavery, registers of marriages of Indian immigrants and census returns.

- (e) *Printed records section* including five classes of printed matter (1) government publications, (2) copies of all books and periodicals printed in Mauritius, regularly deposited in the Archives Office since 1893, (3) files of local newspapers from 1837 onwards, (4) a collection of early Mauritian imprints issued between 1768 and 1810, (5) a small reference library which is as yet in the growing stage. The set of government publications is probably the most important of its kind in Mauritius ; so is the collection of newspapers. The collection of early imprints, which was started quite recently, is unique and of great import from the historical as well as from the bibliographical point of view.
- (f) *Cartographic section* including maps, plans and diagrams either deposited under existing ordinances or transferred from the Survey Office, the Military Department and other departments. Of the old *Dépôt des Cartes de la Marine* little is left now, unfortunately.
- (g) *Photographic section*, which is a quite recent addition. It includes a modern photostat equipment which is used for (1) making replicas for permanent preservation of documents which are beyond repair, (2) making copies for official use by other departments, (3) supplying copies to the public, (4) building up a collection of pictorial records, (5) running an exchange service with archival centres elsewhere.

The Archives Office publishes quarterly returns of books and periodicals printed in Mauritius and deposited under Ordinance 11 of 1893. Since 1949 it also publishes an Annual Report, a Bulletin containing descriptions of the material available in the Archives, and photostatic facsimiles of records of special interest.

The main events of the year were: the reconditioning of the basement of the Office ; the addition to the newspaper collection of 198 newspaper files presented by the Municipal Library of Port Louis, and the approval, by the Executive Council, of a scheme for publishing some of the most valuable records by means of an Archives Publication Fund. In 1950 the Archivist was also delegated to attend the First International Archives Congress and the Ninth International Congress of Historical Sciences in Paris as representative for Mauritius.

THE ROYAL ALFRED OBSERVATORY

The Observatory maintains in Mauritius an administrative and forecasting centre at Vacoas, 1393 feet above mean sea level, the meteorological and magnetic station at the Royal Alfred Observatory, 178 feet above mean sea level in latitude $20^{\circ}5'39''$ S. and longitude $3\text{h. } 50\text{m. } 12.6\text{ secs. E.}$, the meteorological station at Plaisance Aerodrome, and a third order meteorological station at Curepipe. The number of stations from which rainfall records are collected has been almost doubled during the year and is now 152. Four meteorological stations are also maintained in the Dependencies of Mauritius: Agalega, St. Brandon (Cargados Carajos), Diego Garcia (Chagos Archipelago) and Rodrigues. About 400 meteorological observations are collected each month from ships at sea.

The daily weather maps cover, as far as possible, the whole of the Indian Ocean and surrounding continents between the Equator and latitude 50°S . Meteorological observations are prepared and transmitted daily for the use of meteorological services of other countries, for shipping, aviation, Government Departments and the public. Special warnings of tropical cyclones are provided and numerous general enquiries from authorities overseas and in the Colony are answered. On the 22nd October, the Department had the particularly interesting and difficult task of providing a route forecast of cloud, weather, winds and temperatures at all levels up to 20,000 feet to a Royal Air Force Lincoln aircraft which flew, successfully, direct from Mauritius to near Perth, Australia, in just over eighteen hours.

Plans to reorganise and extend the Department, to meet post-war commitments are being implemented gradually but are hampered by the lack of buildings and the shortage of senior staff. Nine observers have, however, been recruited and trained during the year permitting better staffing, in that grade, at all stations already opened and the extension of the work at Diego Garcia.

The printing of the arrears of the Monthly Bulletins for 1947 has been completed but those for 1939 to 1943 and 1948 to 1950 are still outstanding.

Mauritius was again fortunate this year in not suffering damage from tropical cyclones. Only once, in January, was the wind strong and then it only just reached the critical speed of 30 knots averaged over one hour on parts of the central plateau. The cane growth season started in December 1949, rather dry, due to the continuation of a drought which had started four months earlier. In the middle of January a cyclone which passed 100 miles to the

west of Mauritius gave beneficial rain which brought the rainfall of that month up to normal. Only small amounts of rain fell in the north and west of Mauritius in February and over most parts of the island in May, but rainfall was very plentiful in March. The winter and spring rainfall was about normal generally. From July to September the winds were consistently stronger than usual and maximum day temperatures were considerably below normal.

HISTORICAL, LITERARY AND CULTURAL SOCIETIES

The British Council

The British Council was established in 1934 at the instance of the Foreign Office. Under the terms of the Royal Charter, granted in 1940, the Council exists for the purpose of promoting a wider knowledge of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the English language abroad and of developing closer cultural relations between the United Kingdom and other countries for the purpose of benefiting the British Commonwealth of Nations. In July, 1950, the Council had staffs at work in most European countries, in many Latin-American Republics, in almost all the countries of the Middle East, in Burma, China and Indonesia, in Australia, New Zealand, India, Pakistan, Ceylon and in many British colonies. On the 1st of January, it became responsible for accommodation and welfare services for all the 4,000 colonial students in the U.K., funds for this work being provided from the Colonial Development and Welfare Fund. Details of the activities of the British Council in Mauritius will be found in Part I.

Société de l'Histoire de l'Île Maurice. This Society was founded in 1938 to foster and encourage the study of the Colony's history by collecting documents on local history, publishing historical works, and organising historical exhibitions and lectures.

One of the principal activities of the Society has been the production of the Dictionary of Mauritian Biography, twenty-four parts of which have already appeared. These contain about one thousand biographies of persons connected with Mauritius by birth or residence.

The Society awards prizes in the schools to encourage the study of Mauritian history. It corresponds and exchanges publications with similar institutions overseas and collects material from the Archives at the Cape, The Hague, Batavia, Paris, London and Lisbon.

In 1939 the Society took part in the Adrien d'Épinay Centenary Celebrations.

In 1942 a monument was erected by it to commemorate the explorer Matthew Flinders who had been a prisoner for seven years in Mauritius.

In 1944 it organised a Paul and Virginia bi-centenary exhibition in the Mauritius Institute. It also erected a monument at Poudre d'Or in the same year to commemorate the wreck of the ship *Saint-Géran* off the coast of Poudre d'Or in August 1944.

In 1948 the Society set up a third memorial at Grand' Port on the spot where the Dutch first landed in Mauritius in 1598.

British Medical Association, Mauritius Branch. A branch of the British Medical Association was founded in 1939. Of the 88 registered practitioners in the Colony, 56 are now members of the local branch. Membership is granted to all medical practitioners who have qualified for registration in Mauritius, including those with French qualifications. The Branch is thus representative of the medical profession in the island. Close collaboration is maintained between Government and the profession, and the advice of the Branch has been frequently sought by Government in connection with Development and Welfare and other needs of the community. In 1950 the Mauritius Branch was consulted on the advisability of introducing a National Health Insurance Scheme and the question is now being considered.

Le Cercle Littéraire de Port Louis. The principal object of this Society is to unite all those interested in French culture and ideals. Its aim is to encourage among the Mauritian people the study and diffusion of the French language and literature, by means of annual competitions and public lectures. A review, *L'Essor*, is published by this Society.

La Société des Ecrivains Mauriciens. The Society was founded in 1938 with the objects of encouraging the publication of literary works, establishing contact with similar institutions overseas, and maintaining unity among Mauritian writers. Encouragement is given to young authors by the award of prizes and by assisting the publication of their works.

The English Association

The weakness of Mauritius students in spoken English, especially as compared with their proficiency in written English, is a known fact and has always placed them at a disadvantage. The cause of that weakness is that few Mauritian students have

the opportunity of improving their spoken English by association with English-speaking people or by hearing the language spoken by English people.

In 1945 a movement was started by Mr. Max Rohan to create a society which would encourage and help Mauritian students who were learning English to a better knowledge of it, particularly of the spoken language, and to a fuller acquaintance with English literature and culture ; the society was, above all, to provide facilities for Mauritian students to speak English and hear it spoken by English people.

A Provisional Committee under the chairmanship of Mr. M. Rohan was appointed to bring the society into existence, and after several months of work the society was officially inaugurated under the name of The English Association, at a meeting held at the Rose Hill Town Hall in December 1946. His Excellency Sir Donald Mackenzie-Kennedy, K.C.M.G., who had from the beginning taken an interest in the society, honoured the meeting by his presence. The Association has since been honoured by the patronage of the Governor of Mauritius.

The object of the Association is to help young people who desire to improve their knowledge of English, and to this end it arranges film shows, dramatic performances (with the assistance of the Mauritius Dramatic Club) and broadcasts in English for school children ; it organizes essay writing competitions and especially annual competitions in elocution, acting and singing in English and makes the prize-winners take part in a public recital; it promotes the formation of dramatic, debating and literary circles, and in short engages in any activity likely to be of help to students of the English language and literature.

The Association is composed of some 50 members, and its annual oral competitions are very popular.

The Association works in close co-operation with the British Council in Mauritius.

Alliance Française. The local branch of the *Alliance Française* in Port Louis, Mauritius, was founded in 1884 with the object of fostering French culture by the introduction of French courses in schools, conducting annual examinations and organizing meetings and conferences on French literature and art.

The Mauritius Dramatic Club. This club, founded fifty years ago and active in pre-war days, virtually ceased to exist during the war years. There was a revival of the club in 1946 and this year it staged one play "She Stoops to Conquer" and presented five studio broadcasts. Three play readings from members were also heard. There was a decrease in the membership during the year as a number of active members left the Colony.

The Mauritius Muslim Youth Brigade. Founded in 1939 under the patronage of His Eminence Maulana Abdul Aleem Siddiqui, the Mauritius Muslim Youth Brigade is one of the most active youth organisations in the Colony and young Muslims of all classes are encouraged to join the movement. The Brigade organizes lectures, debates and sports, and an annual bulletin is published.

The Vacoas House of Debaters. This Association is a literary society which takes special interest in youth education and has started a scholarship fund, authorised by Government, to assist pupils of the Royal College and Royal College School.

Fortnightly meetings are held for lectures, debates and plays, and occasional radio programmes are presented on the Mauritius Broadcasting Service.

The Indian League of Mauritius. The Indian League of Mauritius was founded under the name of the Indian Students Association. The principal objects of the League are to foster friendship and brotherhood among its members and to work for the social betterment of the Indian community. The League organizes debates, lectures and sports, publishes a quarterly magazine, and gives plays in English, French and Hindustani.

The Mental and Physical Culture Association. The principal aims of this Association are to encourage the study of the English language and literature, and to assist its members in obtaining facilities for enjoying sports such as tennis and football.

The Hindi Pracharini Sadha and the Mauritius Hindi Parishad. These Societies were established with the object of promoting and encouraging the study of Hindi in Schools. Efforts are being made by the managing committees to produce a uniform curriculum and to improve the standard of teaching. Collaboration with the Hindi Sahitya Sammelan of Allahabad is maintained for conducting external examinations in Higher Hindi in Mauritius.

The Mauritius Film Society. The almost complete absence of public showings of English films in the Colony led, at the close of the year, to the revival of the Society which intends showing English speaking films to its members.

PART III

Chapter I—Geography and Climate

GEOGRAPHY

Mauritius is a small island extending over an area of about 720 square miles, situated in the Indian Ocean, between $19^{\circ} 58'$ and $20^{\circ} 32'$ South Latitude, and the meridians of $57^{\circ} 17'$ and $57^{\circ} 46'$ East Longitude. It is almost surrounded by a fringing coral reef. The northern part of the island is a fairly flat plain which rises gently towards the Central Plateau. Elsewhere the coastal plain is narrow, and the ascent to the central abrupt. Bordering the central plateau there are three main mountain ranges with rocky peaks, the highest of which is 2,711 feet. Apart from these ranges, there are many other isolated hills and peaks. There are numerous small rivers throughout the island, the longest being about 25 miles. Most of the rivers are short and fast-flowing owing to the steepness of the slope from the central plateau to the sea. Waterfalls are not uncommon in Mauritius, and some of the larger have been harnessed to supply hydro-electric power. There are only two natural lakes on the island, Grand Bassin and Bassin Blanc. Four reservoirs supply water for domestic use, irrigation and hydro-electric purposes, and work on a fifth, began in the second half of 1949.

Mauritius is one of the most thickly populated countries in the world; its 720 square miles carry a population of 472,000 i.e., about 655 inhabitants per square mile—a staggering figure for an agricultural country. The district of Plaines Wilhems on the central plateau has a population density of over 1,000 to the square mile.

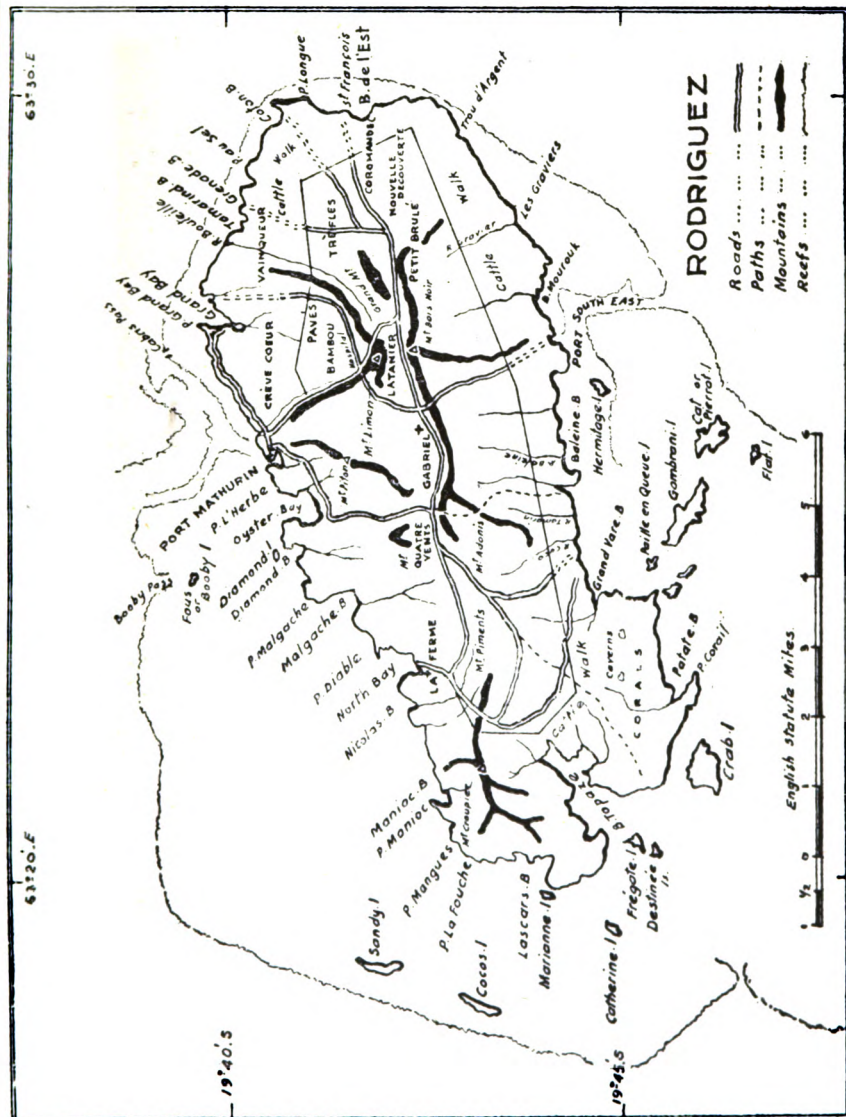
The chief industry of the island is sugar production and sugar-cane fields may be seen all over the island. From the hill tops the ground looks like an immense green lawn, regularly intersected by silver-grey ribbons of roads. There are small indigenous forests, but the Forest Department has planted areas with pine trees in order to supply wood to factories and to provide timber for building purposes. All round the coast, there is a fringe of either casuarina (" filaos ") or coconut trees.

Mauritius is well supplied with road communications. Travelling, even to the remotest part of the island, is comparatively easy. There is a railway service operating 164 miles of main and secondary lines, in addition there are numerous bus services.

The Colony is a comparatively isolated place, being situated almost in the centre of the Indian Ocean. Strategically, however, it is placed at the crossing of the sea routes linking Australia, India and the East Indies, with South Africa. Before the second world war, steamers, en route from the Far East to South Africa, called regularly at Mauritius, as did the French ships, bound for the neighbouring French colony of Réunion. There was also a regular service with East African ports. During the war a modern airport was built at Plaisance, in the southern part of the island. There is at present an air service linking Mauritius with Paris and London. Survey flights in connection with a trans-ocean air service between South Africa and Australia via Mauritius were carried out in 1948, but no progress on this project has been made since.

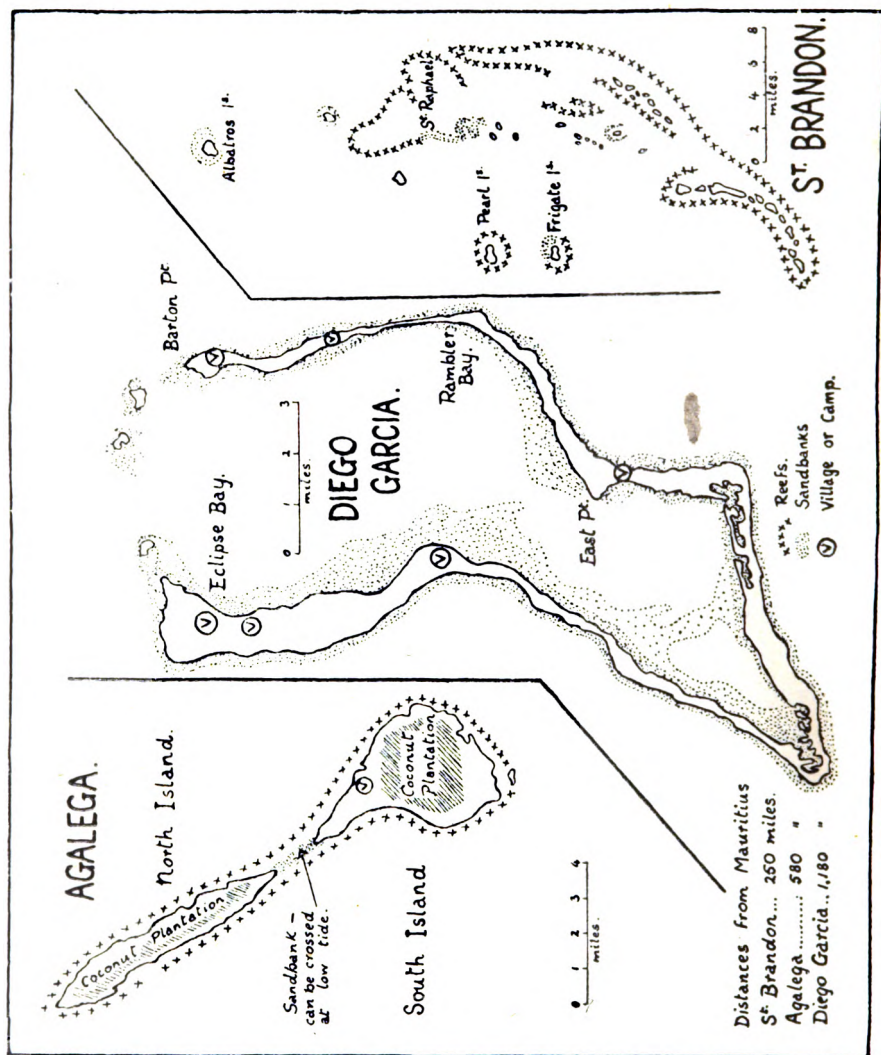
The Colony of Mauritius has a number of island dependencies in the Indian Ocean. These are Rodrigues 350 miles to the east, Chagos Archipelago 1,180 miles north-east in the direction of Ceylon. Agalega 580 miles and Cargados Carajos 250 miles north of Mauritius.

Rodrigues, the principal dependency, is a mountainous island of volcanic formation, encircled by a coral reef. It measures $9\frac{1}{2}$ miles in length by $4\frac{1}{4}$ miles in width, has a population of over 13,000 inhabitants, mostly fishermen and small cultivators. Soil erosion in Rodrigues is causing the



authorities some anxiety and efforts are being made to encourage contour planting and the development of co-operative societies which will inculcate better methods of agriculture. Rodrigues is under the charge of a resident Magistrate, aided by officers of the police, health and agricultural departments.

During 1950, the dependency was visited by the Governor, the Director of Medical Services, the Social Welfare Adviser, the British Council Representative and the Youth Organiser.



Chagos consists of five groups of coral islands, the biggest of which is Diego Garcia. The horseshoe shaped ribbon of land lying just above sea-level, surrounds a lagoon thirteen miles long and between four and five miles wide. Diego was of strategic importance during the recent world war.

Agalega consists of two small islands, separated by a narrow strip of sandbank. This dependency is the main source of copra for the edible oil industry of Mauritius.

The archipelago of Cargados Carajos, usually referred to by the name of the principal islet, St. Brandon, is a fishing station leased to a Mauritian company. At present the fish taken in the waters of St. Brandon are dried and salted for export to Mauritius.

St. Brandon was visited by Sir Hilary Blood this year.

CLIMATE

Mauritius lies just within the tropics, but it is a small land mass without any large land area in its vicinity. It has, therefore, a maritime climate, tropical-maritime during summer and sub-tropical in winter. This differs appreciably from the climate of a place on the same latitude on a large continent. Very high temperatures are not experienced in summer, nor particularly low ones in winter and, except in localities at or near sea-level, especially along the North-West coast and during occasional dry spells, rainfall is sufficient to maintain a green cover of vegetation throughout the year. On the other hand, owing to the high relative humidity, there are periods in summer, particularly when there is little or no wind, when considerable physical discomfort is felt, especially at or near sea-level, even though the temperatures are not extremely high. On the central plateau, which is between 1,000 and 2,000 feet above sea-level, it is comparatively cool almost all the year round. Heavy rains fall in summer, though there is no regular rainy season. In winter, it is cold and wet on the higher parts but cool round the coast. During this period there is a general exodus to the seaside. The bathing beaches with their white coral sand and calm, safe lagoons for bathing, fishing, swimming and boating are really beautiful and have been favourably compared by travellers with the well-known tourist resorts of Hawaii and other Pacific Islands.

The island is in the cyclonic region of the Indian Ocean, and the cyclone season, which coincides with the summer season, begins in November and ends in May. These cyclones often cause damage to plantations and buildings, but equally often are beneficial to the cane fields because of the rain they bring. Cyclones are occasionally very severe, causing widespread destruction to crops, trees and buildings, and sometimes loss of life. Fortunately, visitations of this catastrophic nature are relatively infrequent.

The following is a summary of the main climatological features.

SEASONS

The year can be divided approximately into two seasons ; summer, from November to April and winter, from May to October, though April to June, and the month of September, can be looked upon as transitional periods, during which, incidentally, the weather is wellnigh perfect.

RAINFALL

The average annual rainfall, at or near sea-level, is 50 inches or less, the minimum being about 30 inches in the western and north-western coastal areas. The amount increases steadily, with altitude, and reaches nearly 200 inches on the highest part of the central plateau, at about 2,000 feet above sea-level.

Summer rainfall produces by far the larger proportion of the total for the year. The main source of rain comes from tropical cyclones. When the centre of a cyclone passes over, or close to the island, the rainfall is very heavy, particularly in the case of a slowly moving cyclone. For example, in the cyclone of March, 1931, one locality recorded over 36 inches in 24 hours and 130 inches for the month.

The other important source of summer rainfall comes from instability showers (" convectional " rain), falling during the early afternoon in calm, or nearly calm, weather. These showers are of fairly short duration but, frequently, extremely heavy.

Winter rainfall is mostly of an orographic nature, produced by the lifting and cooling of the trade wind stream as it passes over the island. It is in the form of light rain or drizzle, most of which falls over the central high ground area.

True droughts are rare, except near sea-level, but very large deficiencies occur from time to time, particularly in summer months whenever there is little, or no, cyclonic activity in this part of the South Indian Ocean.

TEMPERATURE

The mean temperature varies from 74° F, at sea-level to 67° F. at 2,000 feet, and the mean annual range is 11° F. The highest and lowest values recorded at the Observatory, at an altitude of 180 feet, are 94.8° F. respectively, and the minimum at 1,850 feet is 44.9° F. The mean daily range is 13.5° F.

HUMIDITY

The mean relative humidity increases from 70% at sea-level to nearly 90% at 1,850 feet. The lowest value recorded at the Observatory is 33%. The mean daily range varies from 19% in April to 31% in November at 180 feet.

SUNSHINE

The average number of hours per day of bright sunshine is 7.8 at 180 feet and 7.0 at 1,400 feet.

WINDS

During the winter months, with only brief occasional interruptions due to distant extra-tropical depressions, the island experiences steady south-east to east-south-east trade winds, of moderate strength. From time to time they become fairly strong for a day or two but never reach gale force.

In summer the average direction of the trades becomes easterly and of light to moderate force, and interruptions are much more frequent. When they are due to depressions to the south, the winds become very light, mainly north-west to north; when due to tropical cyclones, gales from any direction may be experienced.

TROPICAL CYCLONES

Cyclones occur during the summer season, usually between November and May, with the greatest frequency of occurrence in January and February. They have been known to affect Mauritius slightly, on rare occasions, in September and October.

Over the period for which data are available, nearly 100 years, very severe cyclones have been rare, but, as in 1945, it is possible for the island to be struck by two destructive cyclones in a matter of weeks.

The highest average wind velocity so far recorded has been about 90 miles per hour, with peak velocities of 130 miles per hour. The winds near the centre are, however, extremely gusty and this, as well as the torrential rain that occurs, adds considerably to the destruction caused.

Cyclonic activity during 1950 in the S. Indian Ocean was well below the average. On January the wind reached the critical speed of 40 knots on parts of the coastal plateau, but lasted only one hour.

Chapter II—History

The island of Mauritius was probably visited both by Arab sailors and by Malays during the Middle Ages ; and on maps of about 1500 it is shown with an Arabic name. During the early sixteenth century Portuguese sailors visited it several times, and the first European to discover Mauritius is believed to have been Domingos Fernandez. The island appears on many sixteenth-century maps with the Portuguese name of Cerné or Cirné.

Dutch sailors first visited the island in 1598 and renamed it Mauritius, after their ruler Prince Maurice of Nassau ; later they made frequent calls on their trading expeditions to the East Indies. First-hand accounts of these visits exist, and of visits by English, French and Danish ships, which called at Mauritius for water, food, and cargoes of ebony wood. An English trading company planned to occupy the island, but was forestalled in 1638 by a Dutch company, whose settlement lasted (with a gap from 1658 to 1664) until 1710. It was from Mauritius in 1642 that Tasman set out on his most important voyage of Australasian discovery.

The Dutch settlers never numbered much over three hundred (adults, children and slaves all counted) and the most useful element was a group of twenty or thirty farmers, rearing cattle, hunting, fishing and growing food crops as well as some tobacco. But the settlement never developed enough to produce dividends, and the Dutch company finally abandoned it in 1710. The most noteworthy results of this Dutch occupation were the exploitation of the island's great ebony forests and the extinction of the Dodo, a bird peculiar to Mauritius, often mentioned by early seventeenth-century travellers. The Dutch are also to be remembered for the introduction of sugarcane, cotton, domestic animals and deer. Prior to the Dutch occupation the island was uninhabited. The slaves introduced into Mauritius by the Dutch were brought from Madagascar.

The French in 1715 claimed the island and called it ' Ile de France,' but do not seem to have settled any of their surplus Bourbon colonists there until 1722. In the intervals, European pirates, from Madagascar, and ships of the British navy, searching for the pirates, were almost the only visitors to the deserted island.

From 1722 till about 1767 Mauritius was governed by the French East India Company. From 1767 to 1810 it was in charge of officials appointed by the French Government, apart from the brief period of independence under the Colonial Assembly

during the French Revolution. In 1735 the population had grown to almost one thousand (two hundred of them Europeans) and, from the time of the Governorship of Mahé de Labourdonnais onwards, increased rapidly, reaching nearly twenty thousand in 1767 (fifteen thousand of them slaves). Labourdonnais did more than any other Governor to change what was a petty outpost into a strong, prosperous and well populated Colony. Much of the land was divided into concessions of approximately a quarter mile by a mile, and most of these were farmed. Coffee, manioc, maize, vegetables, fruit, indigo, cloves and sugar were among the crops grown. There was some rearing of poultry, goats and cattle.

Towards the end of the Company's rule of the island, Port Louis, the capital, was a lair of speculators and adventurers, desirous of returning to Europe as soon as they had made their fortunes. During the wars of the eighteenth century (Austrian Succession War, Seven Years War, and War of American Independence), the island became a naval depot, supplying French fleets fighting the British in the Indian Ocean, and was the pivot of French schemes to drive the British out of their Indian trading settlements. It was also a port of call for several expeditions (notably that of Bougainville), and was described by many French travellers (of which the best known is *Bernardin de Saint Pierre*, author of *Paul et Virginie*).

From 1767, under royal government, the population continued to increase, reaching thirty thousand in 1777, forty thousand in 1787, and nearly sixty thousand in 1797 (including fifty thousand slaves from Madagascar and Africa). During the French Revolution the inhabitants of Mauritius set up a government virtually independent of France, because the property owners were resolved to defend their interests against the *jacobins* and *sans culottes* and to resist the attempt made, by the French revolutionary government, to release the slaves. The Colonial Assembly organised successful and damaging raids on English commerce, whenever England and France were at war. These raids continued while Decaen (one of Napoleon's generals) was governor, until in 1810 a strong British expedition, long planned and more than once postponed, was sent to capture the island. A preliminary attack was foiled at Grand Port in August 1810, but the main attack, launched in December of the same year, with larger forces, was successful. Bourbon and Rodrigues were also occupied by the British in 1810, but, by the Treaty of Paris in 1814, Bourbon was given back to France. Mauritius and its dependencies, including Rodrigues and Seychelles, were then ceded definitely to Great Britain.

Many English officials were brought in, together with a large garrison of several regiments. By 1870 the garrison had been gradually reduced to half a battalion, which was still further reduced after 1914. Few English merchants and private persons have settled in Mauritius, whose European population has remained mainly French in language and sentiment. After 1825, the island flourished, especially by the export of sugar to England, the crop increasing from 14,000 tons to 34,000 tons in the decade 1823-33. During these early years the English Government's policy to suppress the slave trade and the consequent plans to free the slaves, were opposed until a sum of two million pounds sterling was paid to the slave owners as compensation for the loss of their slaves. To replace the freed slaves labourers were brought from India to work in the fields. The population, which in 1833 had reached a hundred thousand (three quarters of them slaves), had by 1861 risen to three hundred thousand, nearly two hundred thousand of them being immigrants from India, most of whom remained to settle in Mauritius.

With the aid of immigrant labourers, imported fertilizers, improved methods of agriculture and richer cane varieties, the sugar crop rose to 70,000 tons in 1853, 150,000 tons by 1900, and this year reached the record figure of 456,000 tons. In the interests of the sugar industry, forests were cut down, labourers brought in, reservoirs and irrigation schemes carried out, new government departments set up and technicians trained. As Joseph Conrad wrote: "First rate sugarcane is grown there. All the population lives for it and by it. Sugar is their daily bread."

Other industries were sporadically encouraged and usually neglected. After the slaves had been freed, much less food was grown locally, and more was imported, especially rice, from India. This became the staple food of the population and remained so, except when, in the 1939-45 war, rice supplies from Burma and India were cut off and imported flour and local crops had to be used as substitutes. When boom prices were being paid for sugar, after the 1914-18 war, various minor industries including tea, brick and tile manufacture, tobacco, aloe fibre bags and a government dairy, were developed.

One side of Mauritian history is concerned with cyclones, epidemics and crop pests, which from time to time have upset the economy of the island. In the eighteen-fifties, there were epidemics of cholera and in the eighteen-sixties, five years of epidemic malaria which caused the death of 20,000 people in Port Louis

alone, in 1867 and the mass-migration of thousands of persons, including almost all the well-to-do from Port Louis and the coastal districts, to the higher, healthier parts of Plaines Wilhems. Curepipe, a scattered village in 1865, was by 1895 large enough to have a town board, nominated annually by the Governor, and by 1945, was a town of over 20,000 people. The district of Plaines Wilhems, which in 1851, had 14,000 inhabitants, grew to 75,000 in 1921 and 120,000 in 1944. The cyclone of 1892, in which 1,200 persons were killed ; the epidemic of surra in 1902, which killed off all the draught oxen, and caused sugar estates hurriedly to import light railways ; bubonic plague in 1899 ; the " *Phythalus Smithi* " beetle which, in 1911, was found to be attacking the sugarcane ; the 1919 epidemic of influenza ; the spread of malaria during the nineteen-thirties, into the hills and higher districts, and finally, three cyclones and a serious outbreak of infantile paralysis in 1945, are some of the greater misfortunes woven into the pattern of the island's history.

When sugar prices were high and the island was prosperous, living conditions were improved in various ways. The sanitation of Port Louis was improved in the eighteen-nineties, after long discussion. Sir Ronald Ross's visit, in 1908, led to useful anti-malarial work during the next twenty years. Reservoirs at Mare-aux-Vacoas (1893-95), La Ferme (1918), and La Nicolière (1924) brought irrigation and domestic water to private houses and to sugar estates, in several districts. Child Welfare and similar activities developed in the war years. After expert inquiries in 1921, the water supply of Port Louis was greatly improved, and the port itself was somewhat modernised. Under the stimulus of the Colonial Development and Welfare Acts, more money was spent on education in the nineteen-forties. Prior to 1937, government revenue had come mainly from taxes on goods entering or leaving the island as well as on various local products. A graduated poll tax on incomes was introduced and, within ten years, had almost doubled government revenue.

When sugar prices were low or climatic difficulties discouraging, the island had, at intervals, to raise loans or obtain grants from London. This happened in 1892 and again in 1908, when a Royal Commission of Inquiry, under Sir Frank Swettenham, was sent out from England ; this happened again in 1930, when government expenditure on public works and on salaries was cut down ; and in 1945, the consequence of the disastrous cyclones of that year.

The main political events of the period 1850-1900 were:—

- (1) the establishment of the Municipality of Port Louis in 1850 ;
- (2) the Royal Commission of Enquiry on Indian Immigration in 1872 ; and
- (3) the creation of a Legislative Council including elected members in 1886.

The early years of the present century were a period of slow recovery after the epidemics, cyclones and other calamities. The years that immediately followed the 1914-18 war, were years of unprecedented prosperity, owing to a boom in sugar prices, but this prosperity did not last long. During the second World War, Mauritius assumed considerable strategic importance, through the closing of the Suez Canal and the threat to India by the Japanese after their conquest of most of the European settlements in the Far East. The population at large played a valuable part in the organisation of local, military and passive defence and a large number of the Colony's youth volunteered to serve overseas.

Political, social and economic problems have lately claimed the attention of both the local and Home Government. In 1947 Letters Patent were issued granting the Colony a broader political franchise and in 1948 Mauritius took a step nearer that self-government which it temporarily enjoyed in the days of the French Revolution. The island is now at a turning-point in its comparatively brief history, and, whether it uses, or misuses its opportunities, is for itself to decide.

Chapter III—Administration

The Government of Mauritius is vested in a Governor with an Executive Council and a Legislative Council. A Council of Government was first established in 1825. It consisted of the Governor and four officials. In the following year the Constitution was amended and a Council, including unofficial members, was introduced. This Constitution provided for a Council of Government composed of certain officers of the Crown and an equal number of other persons, to be taken from the chief landowners and principal merchants of the Colony ; seven officials and seven unofficials were accordingly appointed.

The Constitution was again amended in October 1885. The Council of Government under the revised Constitution was composed of the Governor, eight ex-officio members, nine members nominated by the Governor and ten members elected by the people ; of the latter, two represented the town of Port Louis, the capital of the island, and the remaining eight represented the rural districts. At least one-third of the nominated members were to be persons not holding any public office.

The Constitution was further amended in July 1933, by fixing at two-thirds the proportion of the nominated members of the Council, who were to be unofficials and, although no provision to that effect was made in the Letters Patent, the nominated unofficial members were allowed a free vote on all occasions.

The Constitution of the Executive Council which was hitherto composed of the Governor and four ex-officio members was amended at the same time, and the former practice of appointing unofficial members to the Council was revised.

Debates in the Legislative Council may be conducted either in English or French. The normal life of a Council is five years, but the last one to sit, under the terms of the 1933 Constitution, lasted from 1936 to June 1948. This long extension was due, first of all, to the war and subsequently to the delays in arriving at a final decision on the new and more liberal Constitution which had been promised to the Colony. The protracted labours of the Consultative Committee on the revision of the constitution had ended in a virtual stalemate. In 1947 the then Governor, Sir Donald Mackenzie-Kennedy, broke this stalemate by submitting to the Secretary of State revised proposals, based on his belief that the bulk of the population was not ready for fully democratic institutions. To guard against possible abuse, certain safeguards were suggested, but within these limitations, the widest possible measure of enfranchisement, on the basis of a " simple literacy " requirement, was recommended by the Governor.

His recommendations were accepted and embodied in the Letters Patent, Royal Instructions and Order in Council dated the 9th December, 1947. General elections were held on 9th and 10th August, 1948, and the new Council met on the first day of September.

According to the terms of the new Constitution, British subjects, male or female, of 21 years of age or upwards, who have been ordinarily and *bona fide* residents in the Colony for a period of 2 years preceding an election, and:—

- (a) being originally resident in some electoral district, are able to read and write simple sentences and sign their names in one of certain specified languages, to the satisfaction of the Registering Officer ; or
- (b) being ordinarily resident in some electoral district, are qualified as serving in the Forces, or as ex-servicemen discharged, with certificate of satisfactory service; or
- (c) have been for 6 months previous to the date of registration, owners or occupiers of business premises in an electoral district;

are entitled to vote unless debarred under the specific disqualifications listed in Section 17 of the Order in Council. This section debars aliens, those under 21 years of age, those not possessing the residence qualification, criminals serving an unexpired sentence of over 12 months, the insane and, finally, those “ disqualified for registration by any law for the time being in force in the Colony relating to offences connected with elections.”

The Legislative Council is now composed of 3 ex-officio, 12 nominated unofficial members and 19 elected members, under the presidency of the Governor. The Executive Council consists of 3 ex-officio members (the Colonial Secretary, Financial Secretary and Procureur General) and 5 appointed members. Four of these, members of Legislative Council, are elected by their fellow-members. The Royal Instructions leave an opening for the appointment of other members to Executive Council, and in December 1950, the Governor appointed an elected member to serve for the remaining period of the Council as at present constituted. The tenure of office of appointed members is three years.

There has been a regrouping of electoral districts under the new Order in Council. Plaines Wilhems and Black River are joined together to form one electoral district returning six members. The electoral districts of Pamplemousses—Rivière du Rempart, Moka-Flacq and Grand Port-Savanne each return three members, and the capital constituency of Port Louis has four members, owing to its dense population and commercial importance.

Under the 1933 Constitution, the number of registered electors was never greater than 12,000 (the figure for December 1947 was 11,799). The number of registered electors under the new Constitution is six times greater—71,723 having qualified to vote in the 1948 elections.

The head of the Civil Service is the Colonial Secretary, who is also the Governor's chief adviser on administrative and political matters, while the Financial Secretary advises on financial policy.

A start in local government was made in October 1946, when a Civil Commissioner was appointed to take charge of the southern districts of Grand Port and Savanne. In May 1947, a second Civil Commissioner was appointed for the northern districts of Pamplemousses and Rivière du Rempart, and a third Civil Commissioner, for the districts of Moka and Flacq, assumed duty towards the end of 1948.

The rural part of Plaines Wilhems and the under-populated district of Black River still remain outside the district administration and it has not yet been decided whether to include them, by the appointment of a fourth Civil Commissioner or by a regrouping of the districts under the existing Commissioners.

The forty village councils constituted in 1947 have now increased to 80. They have been allowed full freedom in drawing up their programmes of work and it is gratifying to note that their projects have, on the whole, been eminently practical and useful. They are working for the public good in such matters as, the division and allocation of Crown Lands for food crop cultivation, the control over the supply and price of fish, firewood and timber. A few councils have developed very rapidly indeed and have been given government contracts for such services as scavenging and the upkeep of cemeteries. With the pump-priming funds provided by the central administration, councils have gone ahead with road repairs and the construction of bridges, markets, water-supplies, latrines and primary school buildings. But many village councils are still struggling to find their feet, and much of the time of the Civil Commissioners is occupied in visiting them and discussing their affairs on the spot. In this way the machinery of local government is being slowly built up by experiment and the sharing of experience gained.

It is hoped in 1951 to grant legal recognition to village councils and provide them with sufficient powers to enable them to develop satisfactorily as true local government bodies.

The larger urban areas of Mauritius have had their own local government organisations for many years.

The Constitution of the Municipality of Port Louis, which was first established in 1849, was modified at the close of the year, by Ordinance No. 35, which increased the membership of the Council from 12 to 16 and provided suffrage on practically the same basis as the local parliamentary suffrage. In 1948, there were 3,485 registered electors, this year the figure had risen to 11,686.

The Mayor and the Deputy Mayor are appointed by the Council, subject to confirmation by the Governor.

In the Plaines Wilhems district, the four Boards of Commissioners, described in previous annual reports, have now been superseded by Town Councils in which the members are partly elected and partly nominated by the Governor. The Town Councils of Curepipe and Beau Bassin—Rose Hill are composed of nine elected, and four nominated members, and that of Quatre Bornes of seven elected, and three nominated members. In December 1950, the electors on the roll of the three Town Councils numbered 5,353, 5,569 and 3,070 respectively.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

The Central Administration was strengthened in 1947, by the addition of a Public Relations branch, as part of the permanent machinery of Government. Public Relations in Mauritius began early in 1942 when an Education Officer was seconded for this purpose to the war-time Censorship and Information Department. Shortly after the end of the war the decision was taken to separate, as speedily as possible. The public relations functions from the propaganda activities of the Information Office; thus making the Public Relations branch responsible for public relations functions only. The Officer seconded for Public Relations work visited the United Kingdom in 1946 and had conversations with the Information Department of the Colonial Office, the Central Office of Information, British Council, British Broadcasting Corporation and the other organisations concerned with publicity matters. The Public Relations Officer returned to the Colony in February 1947, and remained in charge until his departure, on overseas leave, in July this year.

The Head Office which is in Port Louis, is concerned with the preparation and issue of local government publicity and with the distribution of information material received from Great Britain and elsewhere. Its functions are to interpret the Government to

the people and the people to the Government. It also has the task of publicising Mauritius to the outside world and of increasing local knowledge and understanding of Great Britain and the other territories that make up the British Commonwealth.

Close relations are maintained between the Public Relations Office and the local press. A Press Room in an office on the ground floor of Government House, adjacent to the Public Relations Office, was opened on the 27th January in the presence of the editors of the newspapers and members of their staff. A representative selection of English newspapers and periodicals are available for reading in the Press Room or on loan and journalists have availed themselves to the full of the facilities offered.

The Press, which is free to accept or to refuse any material sent to it by the Public Relations Office, does, in fact, generously provide space for official communiques, about two-thirds of which are paid for and one-third published free of charge. The Press also makes use of the material, including ebroids, press releases etc., supplied to it by the Public Relations Office. Films are distributed to the local commercial cinemas, and books, periodicals and pamphlets are made available to libraries, clubs, village councils and similar organisations.

The publication of *Savez-vous que?* the Public Relations Office bilingual publication, in English and French, and the *Hindi Newsletter* in Hindustani, were discontinued on the first of July, following a decision to this effect by the Legislative Council. The Council was of opinion that these papers, whose primary object had been to explain the war aims of the Allies and the policy of the local Government, had now outgrown their usefulness.

The Public Relations Officer advises the Government and controls all matters concerned with publicity. He is not however the sole person responsible for its initiation. Every officer of Government is expected to be a public relations officer for his own department and to do everything within his power to improve the relations between his department and the public it serves.

The Mauritius Broadcasting Service, and the News Monitoring Service, which is an integral part of it, have been dealt with in Chapter X. Although two Hellschreiber machines for the automatic recording of news have been installed, reception of Reuter News and the London Press Service continued to be typewritten during the year, because test transmissions were still being carried out by Reuters.

The Mobile Cinema Unit, a most valuable gift from the war-time Ministry of Information, is deservedly popular throughout Mauritius. Far more demands are received for visits of the Cinema than can be satisfied. In 1947, a regular itinerary was worked out for the northern and southern districts, in consultation with the Civil Commissioners for these areas, and a similar itinerary was adopted in 1948 for the districts of Moka—Flacq. Arrangements were also made with the Education Department, for school shows in the rural districts, where electricity is not available, the other schools being served by the Department's 16mm portable projectors. The Mobile Cinema Unit concentrates mainly on the remoter rural districts. People congregate from miles around, wherever the Unit is booked to give a show and audiences varying between 1,500 and 4,000 are not unusual. Both sound and silent pictures are shown and commentaries are given in French, Creole and Hindustani. Films featuring local events and produced by the Education Department in collaboration with this Office, received a warm reception in rural areas. The commentator who accompanies the Mobile Unit also gives brief talks on Malaria control, sanitation, food production and similar topics. Departmental notices likely to interest rural audiences are broadcast through the van's loudspeakers in the intervals between films. A fairly comprehensive film library, the gift of the Central Office of Information and the British Council, is available both for Mobile Cinema shows and for issue on loan, to the Education Department, Military and individual owners of 16mm projectors. The dependency of Rodrigues has been supplied with a 16mm silent projector and supplies of films are despatched whenever possible. A sound projector was sent to Rodrigues in December, but owing to inadequate electric supply, could not be operated.

During the year the Mobile Cinema Unit has given a total of 289 shows, of which 241 were public and 48 special to medical audiences, the Mauritius Police and inmates of charitable institutions. These shows were attended by an estimated total of 397,400 persons.

A second Cinema Unit, to be paid from the Labour Government Welfare Fund, has been ordered to supplement the single Mobile Cinema Unit serving rural areas. It is expected to arrive in the early days of 1951.

Chapter IV—Miscellaneous

The Metric system is in general use in the Colony. Certain French measures are still used in connection with measurements of land, the more common being:—

| | | |
|---------------|---|--|
| 1 French foot | = | 1·06 English foot. |
| 1 Arpent | = | 40,000 square French feet or 1·04 acres. |
| 1 Toise | = | 6 French feet or 2 yards 4 inches. |

The following measures of capacity are also in use:—

| | | |
|-------------|---|---|
| 1 bouteille | = | 800 c.c. (Liquid) |
| 1 chopine | = | $\frac{1}{2}$ bouteille |
| 1 corde | = | 80 French cubic feet or 96·82 English cubic feet (used only to measure firewood). |

1 Gaulette is referred to as 10 French feet and is used only in the field, whilst 1 *livre* (one pound) is used currently to mean $\frac{1}{2}$ kilogram.

Weights, Measures and Scales are controlled by the Police throughout the Colony. The control of Weighbridges on Sugar Estates is the responsibility of the Central Board (Department of Agriculture).

The following statement shows the number of weights and measures stamped by the Police during the year:—

| | | | | |
|--------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| Weights ... | ... | ... | ... | 32396 |
| Scales ... | ... | ... | ... | 7019 |
| Measures of capacity ... | ... | ... | ... | 2787 |
| „ of length ... | ... | ... | ... | 851 |
| Weighing machines ... | ... | ... | ... | 147 |

Duties collected on this account were Rs. 10,212.75

148 offences under the Weights and Measures Ordinance were detected during the year and 105 weights, 54 measures of capacity and 19 scales were seized by the Police.

GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

The office has continued to work at high pressure. 6,699 jobs were ordered and delivered during the year. The following statement gives an idea of the amount of work undertaken:—

| | | | | |
|---|-----------------------|-----|-----|------------|
| Total Impressions ... | ... | ... | ... | 17,415,930 |
| Miscellaneous Binding Works ... | ... | ... | ... | 13,526,121 |
| Books, Wire-stitched and covered | ... | ... | ... | 124,574 |
| Foolscap Folio | } set and printed ... | } | ... | 3,658 |
| Royal 8vo | | | ... | 7,462 |
| General Jobs | | | ... | 4,446 |
| No. of volumes bound | ... | ... | ... | 5,601 |
| No. of Government Gazettes published... | | | | 77 |

The 45-hour week was extended to the workmen of the Printing Office in the course of the year. A revision of salaries, presented by the workmen's Union, was approved by Government with effect from the 1st of July, 1949.

Improvements have been made to the different buildings ; there is now more lighting and better ventilation in the various sections and some branches have also been enlarged.

Chapter V—Newspapers and Periodicals

| Name | Proprietors or Publishers | Editor | Language | Remarks |
|-------------------------------------|--|---|------------------------|---------------|
| DAILY : | | | | |
| <i>Le Cernéen</i> ... | ... Le Cernéen Company Ltd. | Hervé de Sornay | ... French and English | |
| <i>Le Mauricien</i> ... | ... Hon. Raoul Rivet, C.M.G., M.B.E., Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur | Gabriel Martial | ... French and English | |
| <i>Advance</i> ... | ... The Mauritius Free Press Service Company Ltd. | Hon. Annauth Beejadhur | French and English | |
| <i>L'Oeuvre</i> ... | ... Dr. the Hon. Edgar Millien | Dr. the Hon. Edgar Millien | French and English | |
| <i>L'Après-Midi</i> ... | ... Gaston Pierre | Gaston Pierre | ... French and English | |
| <i>La Vie Ouvrière</i> ... | ... Hon. Raoul Rivet, C.M.G., M.B.E., Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur | Joseph Gérard | ... French | |
| <i>The New Era</i> ... | ... H. K. Naudecr | H. K. Naudecr | ... English | |
| <i>Chinese Commercial Paper</i> ... | ... Long-Siong Ah-Keng | Koon Tin Chun | ... Chinese | |
| <i>Chinese Daily News</i> ... | ... Li-Pak-U | Li-Pak-U | ... Chinese | |
| BI-WEEKLY : | | | | |
| <i>Janata</i> ... | ... The Mauritius Free Press Service Company Ltd. | Hon. J. N. Roy | ... Hindi | |
| WEEKLY : | | | | |
| <i>Espace</i> ... | ... Le Cernéen Cy. Ltd. | Noël Marrier d'Union- ville | French | |
| <i>La Vie Catholique</i> ... | ... L'Union Catholique | Editorial Board presided over by Mr. Edwin de Robillard | French | ... Religious |

CHAPTER V : NEWSPAPERS AND PERIODICALS—Continued

| Name | Proprietors or Publishers | Editor | Language | Remarks |
|--|---|------------------------------|--------------------|---------|
| FORTNIGHTLY : | | | | |
| <i>Journal Scolaire de la Langue Française</i> | L'Alliance Française | André Fraissé | French | ... |
| MONTHLY : | | | | |
| <i>Church Magazine</i> | ... | Bishop of Mauritius | English | ... |
| <i>Revue de Marie</i> | ... | Marie Peril | French | ... |
| <i>Scout Digest</i> | ... | H. E. Patel | French and English | ... |
| <i>Scouts de Saint Louis</i> | ... | Rev. Jean Margeot | French | ... |
| BI-MONTHLY : | | | | |
| <i>La Revue rétrospective de l'île Maurice</i> | Noël Regnard | Noël Regnard | French | ... |
| <i>Legionnaires</i> | ... | Jacques Castel | French | ... |
| <i>La Croisade des Jeunes</i> | Rev. Père Le Juge de Segrais | Rev. Père Le Juge de Segrais | French | ... |
| <i>Essor</i> | Cercle Littéraire de Port Louis | Editorial Board | French | ... |
| <i>The Breeders' News</i> | Breeders' Club | Hervé de Sornay | French and English | ... |
| <i>Revue Agricole de L'île Maurice</i> | La Société des Chimistes de l'île Maurice | Alfred North-Coombes | French and English | ... |

Livestock, farming, etc., Read mostly by members
Sugar Industry and Agricultural Science

CHAPTER V : NEWSPAPER AND PERIODICALS—Continued

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| Name | Proprietors or Publishers | Editor | Language | Remarks |
|---|----------------------------------|---|--------------------|--|
| QUARTERLY : | | | | |
| <i>Mauritius Quarterly Directory</i> | André Bax ... | André Bax ... | English ... | General information, guide book, etc. |
| <i>Cahiers Mauriciens</i> ... | Société des Ecrivains Mauriciens | Président, Société des Ecrivains Mauriciens | French | |
| <i>The Chinese Students Association Quarterly</i> | Chinese Students Association | Roland Kiamtia | English ... | Literary |
| <i>Sièc</i> ... | Le Cercle de la Jeunesse... | Editorial Board | French ... | Literary |
| <i>La Revue Artistique</i> ... | J. I. Tranquille ... | J. I. Tranquille | French and English | Literary |
| <i>Diocesian Quarterly Magazine</i> | Bishop of Mauritius ... | Bishop of Mauritius | French and English | Church of England |
| <i>Spiritus</i> ... | Saint Esprit College | Rev. A. Meaney | French and English | Literary |
| <i>Youth Herald</i> ... | M. Ramtohaul ... | M. Ramtohaul ... | English | |
| ANNUAL : | | | | |
| <i>Mauritius Institute Bulletin</i> | Mauritius Institute | The Board of Directors of the Mauritius Institute and Public Museum | French and English | Scientific Papers on flora and fauna of Mascarenes |
| <i>The Muslim Youth Bulletin</i> | The Muslim Youth Brigade | Eshack Abdul Latif | French and English | Organ of Muslim Youth Brigade |

Chapter VI—Bibliography

Appendix I to this Report gives a list of Development and Welfare publications issued by the Government of Mauritius since 1944. Appendix II lists other government publications of general interest, on sale to the public. A selection of books on Mauritius, available from other sources, is given in Appendix III and a list of out-of-print books of interest to students of history, biography and literature is given in Appendix IV. Further information regarding the bibliography of Mauritius, may be obtained on application to the Custodian of Archives, Port Louis.

APPENDIX I

Mauritius Development and Welfare

LIST OF GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS

| <i>No.</i> | <i>Date of Publication</i> |
|---|----------------------------|
| 1. Memorandum by Sir Donald Mackenzie-Kennedy, K.C.M.G., on the Development and Welfare Organisation | February 1944 |
| 2. Report on Health Conditions in Mauritius by Dr. A. Rankine, M.C. | March 1944 |
| 3. Mauritius Land Settlement Report 1944 ... | November 1944 |
| 4. Memorandum on the Colonial Development and Welfare Act and on Schemes already submitted | February 1945 |
| 5. Progress Report No. I | February 1945 |
| 6. Inaugural Meeting of the Central Development and Welfare Committee | March 1945 |
| 7. Milk Production and Distribution, Creameries and Ghee Refineries, Demonstration Poultry Farm 1944, Lard Factory 1944 ... | November 1944 |
| 8. Pine Plantations in Mauritius—Working Plan, Report by H. C. King | January 1944 |
| 9. Co-operation in Mauritius. Report by W. K. H. Campbell, C.M.G. | April 1945 |
| 10. Statement of Financial Implications of Proposed Health and Education Services | April 1945 |
| 11. Memorandum embodying suggestions for financing the proposed Health and Education Services | April 1945 |
| 12. Educational Services including Training College | May 1945 |
| 13. A Scheme for a Teachers' Training College and Attached Schools | June 1945 |
| 14. Report on sanitary conditions affecting an outbreak of Poliomyelitis in Mauritius by Dr. Kenneth Martin and Mr. J. S. Stirton | July 1945 |

APPENDIX I—*continued*

| No. | | Date of Publication | |
|-----|--|---------------------|------|
| 15. | Memorandum on Rehabilitation and Re-settlement of Mauritian Ex-Servicemen by Major A. E. de Chazal, O.B.E., M.R.C.P., M.S., F.R.C.S. | July | 1945 |
| 16. | Irrigation Proposals | August | 1945 |
| 17. | Mauritius Hemp Industry | August | 1945 |
| 18. | Report of the Industrial Development Advisory Committee | September | 1945 |
| 19. | Pine Plantations in Mauritius—Working Plan (Revision) by H. C. King | December | 1945 |
| 20. | Supplement to Mauritius Government Gazette No. 8 of 1945—Secretary of State's Circular Despatch regarding the Colonial Development and Welfare Act, 1945 ... | November | 1945 |
| 21. | Memorandum by Dr. The Honourable A. E. de Chazal on Proposed Scheme for Improvement and Expansion of the Medical and Health Services in Mauritius ... | May | 1946 |
| 22. | Nutritional Investigations in Mauritius 1942-45. Final Report | May | 1946 |
| 23. | Mauritius Development and Welfare Ten Year Plan 1946-47 to 1955-56 including draft estimates for 1946-47 | June | 1946 |
| 24. | Memorandum on Mauritius Development and Welfare Ten Year Plan Estimates ... | June | 1946 |
| 25. | Progress Report No. 2 | June | 1946 |
| 26. | A Small Scale Experiment in the Use of DDT in Mauritius by H. D. Tonking, R. Lavoipierre and C. M. Courtois ... | June | 1946 |
| 27. | An Essay on Housing, Urban and Rural Planning with special reference to Mauritius by R. Lavoipierre | August | 1946 |
| 28. | Report on a Visit to Trinidad, Louisiana and other countries by P. O. Wiehe ... | July | 1946 |
| 29. | Report on Estate Housing, Slum Clearance and Town and Regional Planning in the Island of Mauritius—First Report by P. M. Aldred | September | 1946 |

APPENDIX I—*continued*

| <i>No.</i> | | <i>Date of Publication</i> | |
|------------|--|----------------------------|--------------|
| 30. | Second Meeting of the Central Development and Welfare Committee | July | 1946 |
| 31. | Despatches in connection with Land Settlement Schemes | December March | 1945 1946 |
| 32. | Ten Year Plan 1946-47 to 1955-56 and Estimates for 1946-47 as passed by the Council of Government of the 22nd October, 1946 | | |
| 33. | Revised Memorandum on Mauritius Development and Welfare Ten Year Plan | October | 1946 |
| 34. | Report on The Tea Industry of Mauritius by Captain E. G. B. de Mowbray, C.B.E., R.N. (retd.) | September | 1946 |
| 35. | Milk Production and Distribution. Steps to implement recommendations of the 1944 Report by a Sub-committee of the Mauritius Breeders' Club | December | 1946 |
| 36. | Report on the possibilities of composting urban refuse in Mauritius by J. P. J. Van Vuren | December | 1946 |
| 37. | Progress Report No. 3 | July | 1947 |
| 38. | Mauritius Development and Welfare Ten Year Plan—1946-47 to 1955-56. Estimates for 1947-48 as passed by the Council of Government on 8th July, 1947 | July | 1947 |
| 39. | Report on the Engineering aspect of the Sewage Disposal of Plaines Wilhems District and on the existing and proposed filtration plants connected with Domestic Water Supply | August | 1947 |
| 40. | The Use of DDT Residual Sprays in the Control of Malaria over an area of 16 square miles in Mauritius | August | 1947 |
| 41. | Report on an investigation into the possibilities of cultivating Tung Oil Trees in Mauritius | September | 1947 |
| 42. | Social Planning and Welfare by L. Silberman | October | 1947 |
| 43. | Report on the possibilities of Land Settlement in Mauritius | January | 1948 |

APPENDIX I—*continued*

| <i>No.</i> | | <i>Date of Publication</i> | |
|------------|--|----------------------------|------|
| 44. | Reports on the Mauritius Fibre Industry by G. Winslow Lock, O.B.E. and P. W. Lees | May | 1948 |
| 45. | Draft Development and Welfare Estimates for 1948-49 | May | 1948 |
| 46. | Development and Welfare Progress Report No. 4 | June | 1948 |
| 47. | Memorandum on Development and Welfare Ten Year Plan and Estimates 1948-49 | September | 1948 |
| 48. | Development and Welfare Estimates 1948-49 | January | 1949 |
| 49. | Report on the Housing of Sugar Estate Workers by Prof. L. W. Thornton White, F.R.I., B.A., M.I.A. | December | 1948 |
| 50. | Draft Development and Welfare Estimates 1949-50 | July | 1949 |
| 51. | Memorandum on Draft Development and Welfare Estimates 1949-50 | July | 1949 |
| 52. | Development and Welfare Progress Report No. 5 | January | 1950 |
| 53. | Development and Welfare Estimates 1949-50 | December | 1949 |
| 54. | Memorandum on the Development and Welfare Estimates 1949-50 | December | 1949 |
| 55. | Report of the Power Alcohol Committee ... | November | 1949 |
| 56. | First, second and third report of the Development and Welfare Ten Year Plan Reviewing Committee | February | 1950 |
| 57. | Fourth Report of the Development and Welfare Ten Year Plan Reviewing Committee | March | 1950 |
| 58. | Draft Development and Welfare Estimates 1950-51 | May | 1950 |
| 59. | Memorandum on the Development and Welfare Draft Estimates 1950-51 | May | 1950 |
| 60. | Development and Welfare Progress Report No. 6 | July | 1950 |
| 61. | Development and Welfare Estimates 1950-51 | October | 1950 |
| 62. | Memorandum on Development and Welfare Estimates 1950-51 | October | 1950 |

APPENDIX II

Government Publications of General Interest

(ON SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE, PORT LOUIS)

| <i>Title</i> | Rs. c. |
|--|--------|
| A Small Scale Experiment in the Use of D.D.T. in Mauritius | 1 10 |
| Census in Mauritius, 1944, Final Report on—M. Koenig ... | 5 00 |
| Civil Service Commission 1945, Report of the—(per set of 3 vols.) | 15 00 |
| Commission of Enquiry into Unrest on Sugar Estates in Mauritius, 1937, Report of | 5 00 |
| Commission of Enquiry into the disturbances which occurred in the north of Mauritius in 1943, Report of ... | 2 50 |
| Commission of Enquiry in General Position and Operations of Insurance Companies in Mauritius 1939 | 1 00 |
| Commission of Inquiry into the Supplies Control Depart- ment, 1949 | 3 00 |
| Commission of Inquiry into the terms of employment of certain workmen of the Railway Department, Report of the | 0 50 |
| Co-operation in Mauritius, Report by W. K. H. Campbell | 0 50 |
| Defence Regulations | 5 00 |
| Digest of the Decisions of the Supreme Court of Mauritius, 1926-1943 | 50 00 |
| Education Code (G.N. 88 of 1945) | 1 00 |
| Electricity Supply Service in Mauritius, Report on the ... | 1 00 |
| Emigration from Mauritius to North Borneo, The Project of Wilkinson | 0 45 |
| Employment Registration Bureau, Progress Report on the | 0 50 |
| Engineering Aspect of the Sewage Disposal of Plaines Wilhems District and on the Existing and Proposed Filtration Plants connected with Domestic Water Supply, by E. J. Hamlin | 0 50 |
| Estimates for 1949-50 | 5 50 |
| Estimates, 1950-51 | 5 50 |
| Estimates for 1949-50, Memorandum on | 0 40 |
| Estimates for 1950-51, Memorandum on | 0 50 |
| Financial Report, 1948-49 | 2 50 |

APPENDIX II—*continued*

| <i>Title</i> | <i>Rs. c.</i> |
|---|---------------|
| General Notice No. 3 of 1948—Letters Patent passed under the Great Seal of the Realm amending Letters Patent of 11.9.1913 | 0 06 |
| Government Gazette No. 4 of 7th January, 1948, containing Letters Patent, Royal Instructions and Order in Council <i>re</i> : New Constitution | 1 00 |
| Housing, Urban and Rural Planning with special reference to Mauritius, An Essay on—Dr. R. Lavoipierre ... | 2 00 |
| Industrial Development Advisory Committee, Report of 1945 | 2 50 |
| Investigation into the possibility of Cultivating Tung Oil Trees in Mauritius, Report on | 0 15 |
| Irrigation and Hydro-Electric Resources in Mauritius, 1940—Sir Bede Clifford | 30 00 |
| Malaria Eradication Scheme, Progress Report No. 2 (September, 1950) | 0 25 |
| Mauritius Archives Bulletin | 0 75 |
| Mauritius Fibre Industry, Report on W. Lock, O.B.E. and P. W. Lees Publication | 0 50 |
| Mauritius Economic Commission, 1947–48, Report—Part I | 3 00 |
| Poliomyelitis in Mauritius—Sanitary conditions affecting an outbreak of | 0 20 |
| Progress Report on the Recommendations of the Mauritius Economic Commission | 1 50 |
| Recommendations for the Technical Improvement of M.B.S. John W. Murray, Assoc. I.E.E., Assoc. Brit. I.R.E. | 0 50 |
| Rehabilitation and Resettlement of Mauritius Ex-servicemen (1945)—Major the Honourable A. E. de Chazal, M.B.E. | 0 20 |
| Report of the Committee appointed by His Excellency to consider the conditions of service and status of Supreme Court and District Ushers | 0 25 |
| Report on A Visit in Mauritius, etc.—A. J. F. Bunning, C.M.G., M. Inst. T. | 0 50 |

APPENDIX II--*continued*

| <i>Title</i> | <i>Rs. c.</i> |
|--|---------------|
| Report on A Visit to Tanganyika Territory in June 1950— Wilkinson | 0 50 |
| Report on Mauritius, 1949 | 2 00 |
| Report on the Control of Supplies, Mauritius July 1949— Dr. William Clyde | 0 10 |
| Revision of the Constitution—Correspondence with the Secretary of State for the Colonies | 0 25 |
| Secondary Education in Mauritius, Report on— A. E. Nichols | 0 50 |
| Social Insurance Schemes in Mauritius | 0 25 |
| The Tea Industry in Mauritius, Report on—Capt. E. G. B. de Mowbray | 1 00 |
| The Organisation of Community Development | 0 25 |
| The Use of D.D.T. Residual Sprays in the Control of Malaria over an area of 16 square miles in Mauritius— H. D. Tonking and S. Gébert | 0 30 |
| Trade Unionism in Mauritius—Ken Baker | 1 00 |
| Trade Unionism—K. Baker | 0 25 |
| White Paper on Crown Forest Land—Allan and Edgerley | 1 00 |

APPENDIX III

Books on Mauritius published by Non-Government Organisations

| Title | <i>Publishers or Agents for Sale</i> | Price |
|--|--|-----------|
| <i>L'Ile d'Aigle—Naufrage de la barque Diégo</i> (1936) by Fr. Dussercle. | The General Printing and Stationery Co., Ltd., Port Louis, Mauritius. | Rs. 2.50 |
| <i>La Pluie à l'Ile Maurice</i> (1935) by Marc Herchenroder. | do. | Rs. 8.00 |
| <i>La Canne à Sucre à l'Ile Mau- rice</i> (1920) by P. de Sornay. | do. | Rs. 10.00 |
| <i>The Evolution of Sugarcane Culture in Mauritius</i> (1937) by A. North-Coombes. | do. | Rs. 8.00 |
| <i>Mauritius and the War</i> (1940) by the Indian Cultural Association. | do. | Rs. 5.00 |
| <i>Grains de Sables</i> (1946) by Georges Pitot (an account of Mauritius troops in the Middle East). | do. | Rs. 2.50 |
| <i>L'Ile Maurice : Guide illustré</i> (1936) by C. Charoux. | do. | R. 1.50 |
| <i>Mauritius Almanach and Com- mercial Handbook</i> (1941) by A. Bax. | do. | Rs. 10.00 |
| <i>Escalé aux Pamplémousses</i> (1947) by C. Charoux. | do. | Rs. 3.00 |
| <i>Le Diocèse de Port Louis</i> (1947) by Mgr. J. Mamet. | do. | Rs. 6.00 |
| <i>Guide Pratique et Moderne du Petit Eleveur Mauricien</i> (1945) by Dr. Maingard, A. Darné and Captain F. Wilson. | The Standard Printing Establishment, Port Louis, Mauritius. | Rs. 5.00 |

APPENDIX III—continued

| <i>Title</i> | <i>for Sale</i> | <i>Price</i> |
|--|---|--|
| <i>The Grasses of Mauritius and Rodrigues</i> (1940) by C. E. Hubbard and R. E. Vaughan. | Crown Agents for the Colonies | 4s. 6d. |
| <i>Etude sur les trajectoires des cyclones</i> , by R. de Chasteauneuf | The General Printing and Stationery Co., Ltd., Port Louis, Mauritius. | Rs. 5.00 |
| <i>Traité élémentaire de la théorie des cyclones dans l'Océan Indien Sud</i> , by J. R. Raffray. | do. | Rs. 5.00 |
| <i>Dictionary of Mauritian Biography</i> Nos. 1-23. | The Standard Printing Establishment, Port Louis, Mauritius. | Between R. 1.00 and Rs. 2.00 per number. |
| <i>Early Almanachs of Mauritius</i> , by Dr. A. Toussaint. | The General Printing and Stationery Co., Ltd., Port Louis, Mauritius. | |
| <i>Bulletin de la Société de l'Histoire de l'Ile Maurice</i> , 1945-47. | do. | Rs. 5.00 |
| <i>Cahiers Mauriciens</i> , 1946. | do. | Rs. 2.50 |
| <i>Cahiers Mauriciens</i> , 1947. | do. | Rs. 2.50 |
| <i>La Découverte des Iles Mascareignes</i> by Georges de Visselou Guimbeau. | do. | Rs. 10.00 |
| F.R.G.S. | | |
| <i>L'Ile Maurice et sa Civilisation</i> . | G. Durassié & Cie. 64, boulevard Saint-Germain, Paris. | Rs. 50.00 |

APPENDIX III—continued

| <i>Title</i> | <i>for Sale</i> | <i>Price</i> |
|--|---|--------------|
| <i>La Défense de Notre Patri-moine</i> , by Pierre de Sornay. | Nouvelle Imprimerie Co-opérative | Rs. 3.00 |
| <i>Visits and Despatches</i> (1598–1948) by P. J. Barnwell, M.A. | The Standard Printing Establishment, Port Louis, Mauritius. | Rs. 10.00 |
| <i>A History of Indians in Mau-ritius</i> , by K. Hazareesing. | The General Printing and Stationery Co., Ltd., Port Louis, Mauritius. | Rs. 25.00 |
| <i>Mes Champs et Mon Moulin</i> by F. North-Coombes. | do. | Rs. 10.00 |
| MAPS OF MAURITIUS | | |
| <i>Map of Mauritius</i> (quarter inch to mile). | The General Printing and Stationery Co., Ltd., Port Louis, Mauritius. | Rs. 0.25 |
| <i>Ordnance Survey Map</i> (Six sheets: one inch to mile). | E. Stanford, Ltd., London. | 15s. 0d. |
| <i>The Mauritius Atlas</i> | Collins-Longman, London. | 3s. 6d. |

APPENDIX IV

Out of Print Books on Mauritius

(a) GENERAL AND DESCRIPTIVE.

Mauritius Illustrated (London, 1914) by A. Macmillan.

L'Ile Maurice (Mauritius, 1921) by W. E. Hart.

Island of Mauritius (Mauritius, 1928) by R. Philogène.

(b) HISTORY.

T'eylandt Mauritius (1598-1710), Mauritius, 1905), by A. Pitot.

L'Ile de France (1715-1810), (Mauritius, 1905), by A. Pitot.

L'Ile Maurice (1810-1833), by A. Pitot.

The History of Mauritius or the Isle of France (London, 1801), by Charles Grant, Viscount de Vaux.

Ile de France, Documents pour servir à son histoire civile et militaire (Mauritius, 1925) by St. Elme le Duc.

Ile de France sous Decaen (1803-1810) (Paris 1901), by Henri Prentout.

Le Combat du Grand Port et la fin de l'occupation française (Mauritius, 1910), by Léon de Froberville.

Sea fights and Corsairs of the Indian Ocean, being the naval history of Mauritius from 1715 to 1810. (Mauritius, 1934), by H. C. M. Austen, C.B.E.

Some account of the state of slavery in Mauritius since the British occupation in 1810 (Mauritius, 1830), by Charles Telfair.

Mauritius, Records of private and public life (1871-1874), Edinburgh, 1894), by Sir Arthur Hamilton Gordon.

Port Louis, Deux Siècles d'Histoire (1735-1935) (Mauritius, 1936), by A. Toussaint.

(c) TRAVELS.

Creoles and Coolies ; or five years in Mauritius (London, 1859), by Rev. Patrick Beaton.

Sub-tropical rambles in the land of the Aphanapteryx, (London, 1873), by Colonel Nicholas Pike.

Appendix IV—continued

(d) ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL.

Les Indiens à l'Ile Maurice (Mauritius, 1935), by Aunauth Beejadhur.

Report on the Prevention of Malaria in Mauritius (London, 1908), by Ronald Ross.

Statistiques de l'Ile Maurice et ses Dépendances (Mauritius, 1886), by Baron d'Unienville.

The Sugar Industry of Mauritius A study in correlation, (London, 1919), by A. Walter.

(e) NATURAL HISTORY.

The Dodo and its kindred. (London, 1848), by H. E. Strickland and A. G. Melville.

Flora of Mauritius and the Seychelles (London, 1877), by J. G. Baker.

Faune malacogique terrestre et fluviatile des îles Mascareignes (Paris, 1921), by Louis Germain.

(f) FOLK-LORE.

Les parlers creoles des Mascareignes (Paris, 1891), by A. Dietrich.

Etude sur le patois créole mauricien (Nancy, 1880), by Charles Baissac.

Le Folk-lore de l'Ile Maurice (texte créole et traduction française) (Paris, 1888), by Charles Baissac.

(g) FICTION.

Paul et Virginie, (first edition published in 1838), by Bernardin de Saint Pierre.

Les guêpes mauriciennes, (Paris 1861), by Matou.

The Island, (London 1914), by Elenor Mordaunt.

Dans les îles là-haut Archipel de Chagos (Mauritius, 1937), by Father Dussercle.

NOTE.—A copy of each of these works is available at the Carnegie Library, Curepipe, Mauritius. In England most of them can be consulted in the British Museum and the Colonial Office Library.

APPENDIX V

Mauritius Development and Welfare Ten Year Plan

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

I.—*Summary of Estimated Revenue*

| | <i>Estimated Receipts over Ten-Year Period Rs.</i> |
|--|--|
| 1. Colonial Development and Welfare Fund (the Colony's allocation under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act 1945) ... | 23,333,300 |
| 2. Colonial Development and Welfare Fund (Research) | 1,182,200 |
| 3. Loan Funds | 60,500,000 |
| 4. Subventions and Reimbursements (from local Funds and General Revenue)* | 22,346,000 |
| TOTAL Rs. | 107,361,500 |

* The details of the contributions from local sources are :

| | <i>Rs.</i> |
|-------------------------------------|------------|
| Surplus Funds | 11,300,000 |
| Mauritius 3% Loan 1961 | 3,140,000 |
| War Risk Insurance Fund | 770,400 |
| Contributions from Revenue | 6,450,000 |
| Miscellaneous other receipts | 685,600 |
| TOTAL Rs. | 22,346,000 |

APPENDIX V.— (continued)

Mauritius Development and Welfare Ten Year Plan

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Summary of Expenditure

| | | <i>Estimated Expenditure over Ten-Year Period</i> | <i>Actual Expenditure 1.7.46 to 30.6.50</i> |
|-------|--|---|---|
| | | Rs. | Rs. |
| 1. | Central Administration... | 2,500,000 | 1,461,356* |
| 2. | Agriculture | 4,691,600 | 1,229,203 |
| 3. | Education (Training College) | 1,188,600 | 1,065,711 |
| 4. | Health | 6,000,000 | 2,959,918 |
| 5. | Nutrition | 268,000 | 260,609 |
| 6. | Settlement | 800,000 | 113,565 |
| 7. | Irrigation and Water Supplies | 35,886,000 | 5,448,615 |
| 8. | Buildings | 10,200,000 | 1,979,837 |
| 9. | Roads | 2,840,000 | 2,201,479 |
| 10. | Research... .. | 4,185,000 | 3,091,104 |
| 11. | Sugar Industry | 5,730,000 | 5,728,908 |
| 12. | Interest Charges | — | — |
| 13. | Scholarships and Training Grants | 370,000 | 44,153 |
| 14. | Sewerage | 712,000 | 98,222 |
| 15. | Secondary Industries | 8,275,000 | — |
| 16. | Forestry | 750,000 | — |
| 17. | Housing | 10,625,000 | — |
| 18. | Unallocated | 12,340,900 | — |
| TOTAL | | Rs. 107,361,500 | 25,682,680 |

*Include Unallocated Stores not yet transferred to other Heads.

The Expenditure for the period 1946–50 was financed as follows :—

| | Rs. |
|---|----------------|
| (1) From the Colonial Development and Welfare Fund | 3,559,112 |
| (2) From advances pending the raising of a loan | 9,483,140 |
| (3) From Subventions and Reimbursements | 12,640,428 |
| TOTAL | Rs. 25,682,680 |

*Approved grants under the Colonial Development
and Welfare Act*

(a) Development Grants

| <i>Scheme No.</i> | | <i>Description</i> | | <i>Amount of Grant</i> | |
|-------------------|-----|--|--|------------------------|------------|
| | | | | <i>£</i> | <i>Rs.</i> |
| D. 396 | ... | Secretary Development and Welfare | | 2,150 | 28,667 |
| D. 531 | ... | Training College (Clearing and levelling of site) | | 4,500 | 60,000 |
| D. 747 | ... | Teachers Training College (Building) | | 145,000 | 1,933,333 |
| D. 667 | } | Employment of Woman Nutrition Officer for 3 years ... | | 2,280 | 30,400 |
| D. 667A | | | | | |
| D. 670 | } | Scholarships | | 20,491 | 273,213 |
| D. 677G | | | | | |
| D. 706 | | | | | |
| D. 760 | | | | | |
| D. 770 | | | | | |
| D. 1022 | | | | | |
| D. 1217 | | | | | |
| D. 1457 | } | Appointment of Land Settlement Officer... .. | | 4,970 | 66,266 |
| D. 1481 | | | | | |
| D. 736 | } | Anti Malaria Works | | 271,912 | 3,625,493 |
| D. 736A | | | | | |
| D. 746 | ... | (A-E) | | | |
| D. 983 | ... | Construction of a Pilot Decorating Machine | | 1,000 | 13,333 |
| D. 1046 | ... | Geological Survey | | 1,900 | 25,333 |
| D. 1246 | ... | Broadcasting Equipment | | 265 | 3,533 |
| D. 1449 | ... | Pilot Land Settlement Scheme. | | 48,375 | 645,000 |
| TOTAL | | | | 502,843 | 6,704,571 |

Approved grants etc.—continued

(b) Research Grants

| Scheme No. | Description | Amount of Grant | |
|-----------------------|---|-----------------|-----------|
| | | £ | Rs. |
| R. 19 ... | Marine Biological Investigation | 4,500 | 60,000 |
| R. 38 } R. 38A } | Biological Control of <i>Cordia</i> <i>Macrostachya</i> | 4,730 | 63,067 |
| R. 39 ... | Establishment of a Fisheries Research Station | 2,850 | 38,000 |
| R. 52 } R. 52A } | Poliomyelitis Research ... | 470 | 6,266 |
| R. 88 (A-J) ... | Mauritius-Seychelles Fisheries Survey | 52,794 | 703,920 |
| R. 138 ... | Visit of an Expert to investi- gate the economic possibili- ties of using night soil for the manufacture of compost. | 430 | 5,733 |
| R. 190 ... | Experiment in the growing of <i>Alcurites Fordii</i> | 340 | 4,533 |
| R. 227 } R. 227A } | Mosquito Eradication Cam- paign | 31,880 | 425,066 |
| TOTAL ... | | 97,994 | 1,306,585 |

EMPLOYMENT REGISTRATION BUREAU

RETURN FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER, 1950

| Trade | Persons unemployed for previous months | New Registrations | Vacancies notified | No. referred | Vacancies filled | Persons unemployed | Remarks |
|-----------------------------|--|-------------------|--------------------|--------------|------------------|--------------------|--|
| Blacksmiths ... | 9 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 13 | |
| Boiler Makers ... | 2 | — | — | — | — | 2 | |
| Carpenters and Joiners ... | 90 | 26 | 15 | 17 | 15 | 101 | |
| Clerks ... | 32 | 12 | — | — | — | 44 | 25 students, 4 same occupation, 1 ex-policeman, 1 ex-station master, 1 dispenser, 1 qualified student in Pharmacy, 3 time keepers, 7 unemployed and 1 overseer. |
| Domestic servants ... | 87 | 19 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 105 | |
| Drivers ... | 19 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 21 | |
| Electricians ... | 6 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 8 | |
| Firemen (Fire Services) ... | 26 | 4 | — | — | — | 30 | 7 carpenters, 8 mechanics, 3 clerks, 1 shop erk, 1 sirdar, 1 painter, 1 electrician, 1 time clerk, 4 unemployed, 2 tailors, 1 unemployed. |
| Fitters ... | 7 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 8 | |
| Headmen and Overseers ... | 44 | 13 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 56 | 15 students, 10 clerks, 8 overseers, 1 forest guard, 1 candle maker, 1 special constable, 1 planter, 1 outroller inena, 3 sirdars, 7 time keepers, 1 photographer, 1 ex-policeman, 2 tailors and 4 unemployed. |
| Masons ... | 27 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 31 | |
| Mechanics ... | 17 | 4 | — | — | — | 21 | |
| Painters ... | 10 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 5 | 8 | |
| Plumbers ... | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | |
| Tailors ... | 9 | — | — | — | — | 9 | |
| Tinsmiths ... | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | 2 | |
| Turners ... | — | 1 | — | — | — | 1 | |
| Labourers "Male" | 147 | 301 | 189 | 206 | 234 | 214 | |
| Labourers "Female" | — | — | — | — | — | — | |
| Labourers "Boy" | 11 | 18 | 5 | 10 | 5 | 24 | |
| Miscellaneous ... | 108 | 34 | 8 | 16 | 7 | 135 | |
| TOTAL | 654 | 455 | 233 | 275 | 274 | 835 | |

R. C. WILKINSON,
Labour Commissioner.

8th January, 1951.

EMPLOYMENT REGISTRATION BUREAU

RETURN FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER, 1950

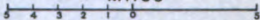
| Trade | Persons unem- ployed for previous months | New regis- trations | Ex-Servicemen | | | | Persons unem- ployed | Remarks |
|----------------------------|--|---------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------|----------------------------|--|
| | | | Vacancies notified | No. re- ferred | Vacancies filled | | | |
| Blacksmiths ... | 3 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 6 | | |
| Boiler Makers ... | 1 | — | — | — | — | 1 | | |
| Carpenters and Joiners ... | 18 | 5 | 3 | 7 | 3 | 20 | | |
| Clerks ... | 11 | — | — | — | — | 11 | | 3 Clerks, 1 electrician, 1 ex-policeman, 6 unemployed |
| Domestic servants ... | 24 | 7 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 28 | | |
| Drivers ... | 29 | 3 | 6 | 7 | 1 | 31 | | |
| Electricians ... | 4 | — | — | — | — | 4 | | |
| Firemen (Fire Services) | 23 | 2 | — | — | — | 25 | | |
| Fitters ... | 2 | 1 | — | — | — | 3 | | 5 carpenters, 5 mechanics, 1 typographer, 1 shop clerk, 5 tailors, 1 electrician, 1 assistant fitter, 6 unemployed. |
| Headmen and Overseers | 48 | 5 | 2 | 6 | 2 | 51 | | |
| Laboratory Attendants | — | — | — | — | — | — | | |
| Masons ... | 6 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 8 | | |
| Mechanics ... | 9 | — | — | — | — | 9 | | |
| Painters ... | 7 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 3 | 5 | | 12 clerks, 1 student, 1 insurance clerk, 1 assistant store keeper, 1 accountant, 2 tailors, 1 notary clerk, 1 proprietor, 1 messenger, 1 switch board operator, 1 cabinet maker, 1 tally clerk, 1 fitter, 1 electrician, 1 driver motor vehicle, 1 shop keeper, 3 ex-policemen, 1 overseer, 2 tinic keepers, 2 field overseers, 15 unemployed. |
| Plumbers ... | 3 | — | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | | |
| Tailors ... | 6 | — | — | — | — | 6 | | |
| Tinsmiths ... | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | | |
| Turners ... | — | — | — | — | — | — | | |
| Labourers "Male" | 106 | 24 | 44 | 50 | 42 | 88 | | |
| Labourers "Female" | — | — | — | — | — | — | | |
| Miscellaneous ... | 80 | 13 | 7 | 12 | 5 | 88 | | |
| TOTAL ... | 382 | 70 | 74 | 97 | 64 | 388 | | |

8th January, 1951.

R. C. WILKINSON,
Labour Commissioner.



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